



When toys
become dreams

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Hit the ice
indoors

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Aperture for reality

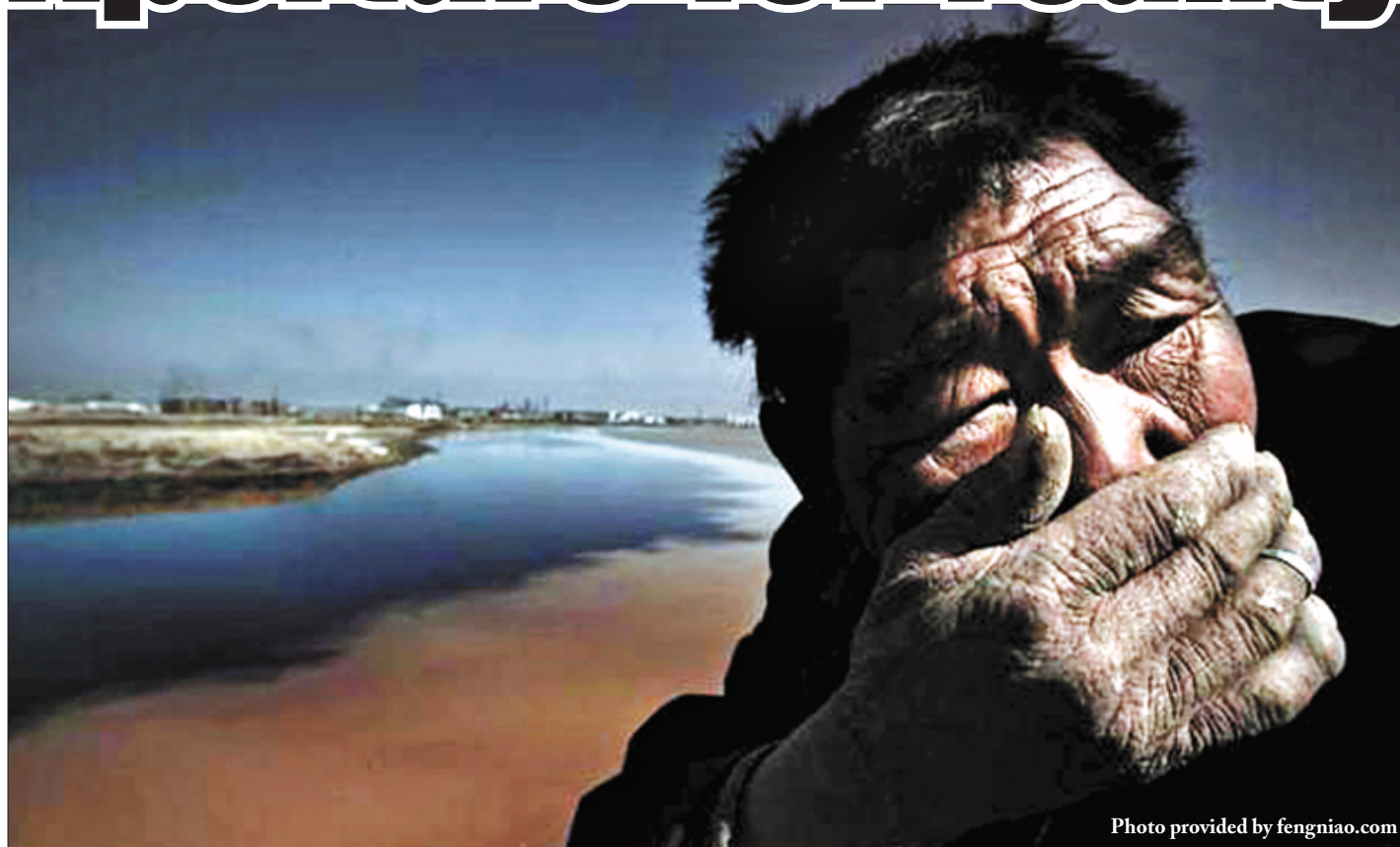


Photo provided by fengniao.com

Lu Guang's lens has a special power: it can change the world. This year, he became the first mainland photographer to win the coveted W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography for "Pollution in China." This photo of the Yellow River is part of his series.

But Lu is not alone in his appeals to conscience through imagery. Other young photographers have picked up their gear and set off to record the harsh reality that exists for people whom society has passed by.

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Lu Guang

CFP Photo

Move to AU
easy no more
for students

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Nine lives too
few in Canton
kitchens

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Following in
a surgeon's
footsteps

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TED spreads
stories of
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Health minister warns of HIV's spread

AIDS is still spreading rapidly among high-risk groups and is threatening to become a serious epidemic, Minister of Health Chen Zhu said Tuesday.

A total of 319,877 people were registered as HIV positive, including 102,323 AIDS patients and another 49,845 now deceased, according to last month's statistics released at a national AIDS control meeting in Shanghai.

But the actual numbers could be much greater as the statistics only included cases reported by medical facilities.

According to estimates by the Ministry of Health and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), China has 560,000 to 920,000 people infected with HIV

virus, 97,000 to 112,000 of whom are AIDS patients.

According to the estimate, 41,000 to 55,000 people contracted the virus this year.

The government has categorized fighting the spread of AIDS "as a strategic issue bearing on economic work and social stability," Chen said.

It has been providing free voluntary blood tests, free anti-retroviral treatments for AIDS patients, free medical advice and treatment for pregnant women and infants, free education for AIDS orphans and aid for AIDS patients.

The central government's funding for AIDS control grew from 390 million yuan in 2003 to 994 million yuan in 2008 while funding from

local governments grew from 100 million yuan to 600 million yuan in the same period, he said.

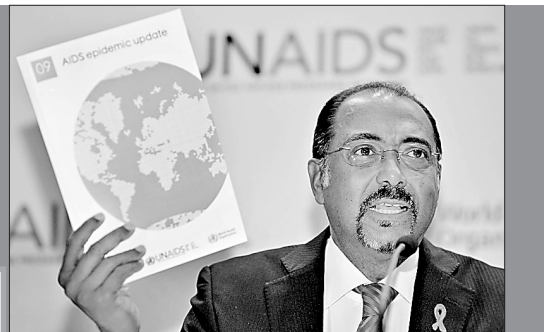
It would appreciate and welcome any support from the international community, Chen said.

"China wishes to conquer AIDS with the world by expanding international cooperation, deepening medical reform and exploring advanced technologies," Chen said.

China has 276 AIDS control programs operated with 40 foreign governments and international organizations, which together have 3.58 billion yuan in funds.

Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, said AIDS is a challenge facing the world that demands full use of the resources at hand.

(Xinhua)



UNAIDS executive director Michel Sidibe released the organization's latest report on HIV patients in Shanghai. CFP Photo

Monitoring and wiretapping soon to be codified in law

By Jin Zhu

Overheard, a film released last July, impressed audiences with its scenes of investigators installing wiretapping devices during its first 10 minutes. Now, wiretapping is coming to China.

New legal reforms are introducing surveillance and wiretapping as legal tools for criminal investigators, Zhu Xiaoping, deputy procurator-general at the Supreme People's Procuratorate, said during a seminar at Renmin University.

The current criminal law defines "business crimes" as those including bribery and corruption, dereliction of duty and the abuse of one's power to infringe on another's rights.

"As a special crime, business crime is corruption at its most severe. Such abuse of power greatly damages society," Zhu said.

But current investigation laws forbid polygraph tests, surveillance cameras and wiretaps as being legal methods of investigation.

To fight an area of crime that is increasingly complex, many insiders have already approved of using secretive investigation tools.

"It is obvious that the current law does not adequately cover methods of investigating crime," Zhu said, adding that in addition to wiretaps and monitoring, other modern tools may include polygraph tests, hypnosis, reading one's mail and satellite tracking.

However, questions have arisen on how to protect citizen privacy when implementing such invasive tactics.

Although many foreign countries like Germany, Russia, Japan, the US and the UK use wiretaps and cameras, they have strict limitations on their use, and in what ways a suspect can be watched," Qian Lieyang, a lawyer from Dacheng Law Office in Beijing, said.

"Taking Germany as an example, the police were initially allowed to monitor all suspects. However, it angered many people who felt it violated their privacy. The federal court ruled in 2004 that police can only monitor suspects after getting the permission of a judge or prosecutor," Qian said.

"In China, rules on granting and carrying secret investigations are also needed, such as a law that would declare illegally obtained evidence as inadmissible at trial," he said.

"These investigative tools should be limited to only the most severe cases, not all cases of business crime. If they are misused even once it would cause great distrust and infringe on individual rights," he said.

Size of Shanghai Disney still unclear

Local residents are expecting higher compensation before they will move.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

The National Committee of Reform and Development approved Shanghai Disneyland on Tuesday. But what they approved is far different from what media were told.

Contrary to prior reports, the Shanghai Disneyland would be 116 hectares – even smaller than the 126-hectare Hong Kong Disneyland.

The committee did not say where the approved 116 hectares is the entire Shanghai Disneyland project or its first phase, *Shanghai Morning News* reported. But the size would still make it Shanghai's largest theme park – 30 percent larger than its Happy Valley amusement park.

Inside sources said the final Disneyland would be 4 square kilometers, 3.2 times the size of Hong Kong Disney and second only to the one in Orlando, Florida, US. China News Service reported that Shanghai Disney would expand in the future.

The local government is preparing for construction based on the project's original size. Yang Zhouyi, secretary of the Pudong Institute of Development and Reforms, said Shanghai Disneyland must be large enough to

lure sufficient tourists.

"Otherwise, it is useless to have a mini-Disneyland in Pudong," the secretary said.

Total investment is estimated at 2.5 billion yuan over five to six years. The Chinese side will hold a 57 percent stake, and Disney would hold the rest.

The Chinese side is held by Shanghai Lujiazui Cultural Development, which will provide 10 billion yuan for the project construction. Investments were made by Lujiazui Group, the investment arm of the Shanghai Municipal Government, Shanghai SVA Communication, a Shanghai-based enterprise that specializes in software and technology development, and Chuansha Town, which is offering its land as capital.

The residents of Chuansha Town were the happiest at the news. The land is far from the town center, which has been a mess for decades. Many villagers have been waiting for this project for decades.

Zhao Jiaqing is a migrant who owns a store in Chuansha which he rents at 6,500 yuan per year. "The price will inevitably increase," Zhao

told reporters. "We will have to move somewhere else."

Uncle Tang, a Chuansha resident, owns a 4-story house that is more than 300 square meters. "I hope the compensation will be higher (than expected)," he said. Tang will receive alternative housing or an apartment from the local government.

In neighboring Xinchun Village, villagers are clearing their houses and yards and building new rooms to open hotels and restaurants as they prepare for an avalanche of tourists.

In the southern part of Pudong, the local government's plan to build a main road to Disneyland is facing tough opposition from local residents who are being forced to relocate their ancestral tombs.

"It's much more difficult than asking them to move their houses," a local official in charge of the work said.

The official said compensation can be paid to force them to change a house, but the cost may be higher to make them move their ancestral tombs.

An estimated 4,000 homes are to be evacuated, but only 50 families have agreed to the compensation package.

Love supermarket, a chance at romance



The supermarket gives lonely single a new way to hook up.

Photo provided by Gao Shan

By Venus Lee

The new supermarket at Western Central Plaza is selling love.

Shelves are stocked with framed photos of lonely singles seeking a partner. About 300 singles' photos are on the shelves now. When there is a successful match, they will put down the photos from the shelf, Zhang Ying, the manager, said.

The "inventory" is sorted by name, sex, age, income and occupation so customers can more conveniently find the section with their Mr. or Ms. Right.

A staff shopping guide acts

as the marriage and relationship counselor. When the customer settles on a photo, the counselor introduces that person's requirements and offers some general statements about that person's friends and relatives, and suggests whether or not they would make a good match. Once the customer settles on a candidate, the shopping guide will help them make a connection.

"All information is offered with the permission of the candidates and its accuracy is guaranteed by the face-to-face interviews we hold with each candidate," Zhang said.

"So far, we've had almost 1,000 visitors, and 40 couples have already made a connection," she said.

Wang Yunfeng, 28, a visitor who works for an accounting firm, says the supermarket has made her search easier. "The information is clear and reliable because the staff at the supermarket has already verified the candidates' identity, and it's more convincing than what you find online," she said.

Internet market researcher Iresearch reports that the online matchmaking market generates

653 million yuan of revenue, and that is expected to grow to 1.2 billion yuan in 2010. Although there are new dating sites that open every month, almost 40 percent of the people distrust the information in profiles found online.

"Some people hide their marital status and age or fabricate an educational background to attract the opposite sex," Wang said. "The supermarket is a relatively transparent platform for singles."

According to China News Service, there are 1.2 million singles in Beijing. As many as 75 percent are men.

'Black Dollar' scam takes money laundering literally

By Han Manman

Beijing police have once again warned residents to be wary of "black money" scams following two new incidents of the scam this month.

Victims of the scam are duped into believing that black or coated papers can be washed and turned into legal tender with a special chemical: money "laundering" taken literally.

Last week, two African men behind one of the recent scams were arrested at a hotel near Tuanjiehu, Chaoyang District, a spokesman for the municipal exit and entry administration said.

Early this August, Wang met an African man named "Carl" online. He said his father worked for the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

After two months of chatting, Carl won her trust with his intelligence and outgoing behavior.

On October 20, Wang met Carl and another African man named Polo, who introduced himself as Carl's friend.

Wang told the police that Carl said he had received a pension payment to his father from UNHCR, and that the money had been temporarily stored at an embassy in Beijing.

Carl said the money was turned black to get it through customs, and it could only be cleaned with Polo's special chemicals.

Then men asked her to give them 6,000 yuan to help them get the money out of the embassy, Wang said.

The pair met a second time six days later, at which time Wang gave Carl 110,000 yuan for an unspecified number of notes. He then pretended to wash the note with the chemicals to produce a real US dollar.

Carl then requested an extra 60,000 yuan to buy more chemicals from Polo and asked Wang to meet him at the hotel.

When she realized she was being conned, Wang called the Chaoyang District police. Officers arrested Carl and Polo during a sting and recovered black paper and counterfeit dollars at the scene.

"People need to exercise common sense about these kinds of scams and tell the police immediately when they are approached," Li Song, press agent of the exit and entry administration, said.

A recent similar case is still being investigated, Li said.

School subs sacked in Lanzhou

By Zhang Dongya

Normally, a substitute teacher is a temporary teacher who fills in when a faculty teacher is missing.

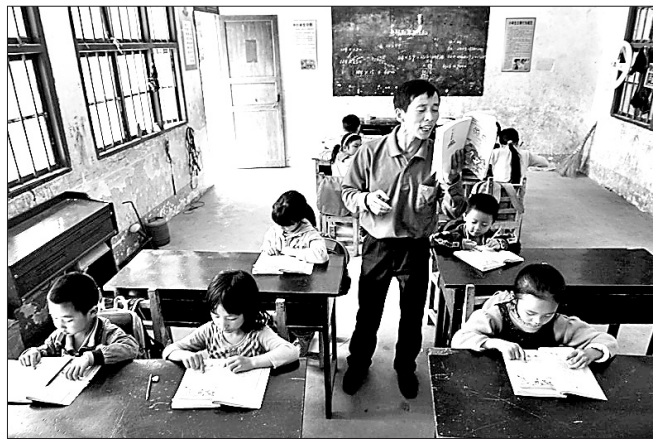
But in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, many have been teaching the same class for decades. These teachers will soon be sacked following a new city ordinance that is forcing out substitutes by the end of the year.

The Lanzhou Department of Education said the city employs 1,240 substitute teachers, 945 of whom work in rural areas.

Since last year, the Lanzhou Municipal Education Bureau has been forcing subs out from middle and primary schools in its rural areas. Each teacher is paid a severance fee of 1,000 yuan for every year served. About 750 have been dismissed and paid, and another 195 will be dismissed this year.

The remaining teachers are new recruits from the universities, as many as 671 of whom have been hired recently.

Many teachers have a hard time finding a new job once laid off. Bai Tianxi, who worked at



The education bureau is soon sacking the rest of its substitute teachers. Two decades ago, they brought education to the countryside.

CFP Photo

the Qingquan Primary School in Yongdeng County for 25 years, said his age prevents him from making a career change.

About 20 years ago, a substitute in Gansu was paid 50 yuan per month: half a faculty teacher's salary. The gap in pay has grown tenfold in the last two decades.

Bai is paid 300 yuan per month – the average for substi-

tute teachers in Lanzhou. Faculty teachers, even in rural areas, earn 2,000 yuan.

Many have complained that the severance package is too small. Bai would be paid 25,000 for his 25 years of service. He owes 30,000 in debts and is currently paying his children's high school tuition.

Some substitutes are considering applying for faculty positions.

China as seen by the Chinese

Photographers call for conscience

By Huang Daohen

He's not only an artist, but a moral force to be reckoned with. His images are a visual conscience for China and the rest of the world. That's what people say about Lu Guang, a Chinese photographer who won this year's W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography.

But Lu is not alone in his way of appealing to the conscience through imagery. There is an emerging group of photographers trying to record and expose the lives of people at the bottom of society, whom most of the world overlooks.



Lu Guang's "Pollution in China" exposes shameful scenes of ecological destruction.

Photos provided by fengniao.com

Lu Guang's "Pollution in China"

"I never thought of winning an award when I decided to take pictures," Lu Guang said. "What I wanted to do was to record and expose the reality that the world doesn't know."

Lu, 48, was the first on the mainland to win the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography, one of the most prestigious awards in photography, for his portrayals of real life.

Lu won the award on October 14 for his documentary project "Pollution in China," a collection of about 40 pictures of industrial pollution.

Lu has been working on the project since 2005. He said he went to almost every corner of the country and recorded the pollution problems.

"The places are really remote and isolated, if I don't go and take these pictures, no one will know the situation. If no one knows, then who will solve it?" he said.

In order to record the lives of the people, Lu said he had to go back to the same spot several times. He gradually made friends with the locals. "I told them the reason I came, so the locals actually welcomed me to record their life," he said.

Lu, born in Zhejiang Province, said he first encountered documentary photography at the age of 20 while working in a silk factory.

"I was shocked when I first saw the bank on the Yangtze River," Lu said. "A huge pipe was puking out polluted water. The smelly, yellow

water with gray bubbles flowed directly into the river."

"The scene was hard to imagine. I had seldom seen such pollution. How could it be happening?" Lu said. It inspired him to become a documentary photographer.

Lu said he is now working on a project to record how effluent wastes have an impact on fishermen's lives.

Young people join in

But Lu is not alone in his effort to record reality. As digital cameras and the Internet spread, anyone with curiosity and money can become a documentary photographer. Many young people like Su Ziling have ample time and the impulse to shoot.

Su, 31, works for a travel magazine in Beijing. As a self-described amateur, he posts his photos on Fengniao.com, one of the country's leading digital photography websites, rather than in a gallery.

But being a documentary photographer requires a lot, even as an amateur. No one will fund you, and you have to spend a lot of time on the road searching for good pictures, Su said.

Su said his family always complained about his sudden disappearances. "They just don't understand why I would travel halfway across China just to take pictures," he said.

Last month, Su visited a remote village in the west to record its bleak scenes of poverty.

"You look at the treeless land and think there's no way anything could grow here. There's an incredible sense of isolation," he

said. "You know the locals have no way out."

"But when you realize those people's lives might change because of the pictures you've taken, then the effort is worth it," Su said.

Documentary photography in China

Documentary photography never existed in China until the late 1970s when the country began to open, said Liu Shuyong, a photography critic and professor at the School of Culture and Communication of Central University of Finance and Economics.

Liu said the concept was imported from the West. During the Great Depression, the US government hired photographers to take pictures of the poor and used those as a reference for economic policy.

Before the 1970s, photography in China was only used for creating propaganda for the state. But in the 1980s, photographers began to create images to explore their own ideas and agendas.

"Their works faithfully reflect the living conditions and the diverse social problems of people at the bottom of society," Liu said.

Documentary photography has arrived at a new stage when society is progressing at a great speed. Younger photographers are maturing, and their works contain less anxiety and more focus on social observation, Liu said.

"More and better photographers will emerge in the near future," he said.



A sad scene on the Yangtze River.

With Lu Guang

Q: Where did you get the funding for this project?

A: It came from my savings. I am not like most people. I'm happy enough to have 50,000 yuan. But for others, they want 100,000 yuan, and then a million yuan. They never have enough. I live simply and save money where I can. When others would stay in hotels that cost 200, 300 or 500 yuan, I would pick somewhere less than 100 yuan.

Q: How did you find the locations for your photos?

A: The information was provided by my friends.

Q: How did the villagers see the pollution in their lives? Did they feel it was serious and threatening, or did they think local economic development was more important?

A: Many farmers told me that they are not against economic development. In fact, they like to have these factories since they offer a chance to find work and to earn more money. And as people come in, they can rent out their extra rooms to migrant workers. However, they do want the factories to balance out and stop ruining their environment.

Q: What do you think the root cause of pollution is?

A: Business owners want to get more profits, and to do that they will put aside their own morals and destroy the environment. They profit, and that's that.

Q: Do you feel that your photographs touch people?

A: If they have any impact, I can't feel it. I think their impact is something the media has created. I just followed my intuition when shooting and thought I did a good job.

Australian study no longer springboard for immigration

By Han Mamman

If you want to study in Australia, what's your reason? If it's immigration, reconsider your options. The country is no longer an immigration heaven for international students.

The five Australian private schools that collapsed early this month were joined last Thursday by another – Maewill – and their deaths affects more than 200 foreign students including dozens of Chinese.

Australian media predict the next months will see more schools bankrupt, and in turn disrupt the lives of more students.



The collapse of Australian vocational schools has disrupted the lives of foreign students.

Xinhua Photos

Fate of private schools

The reputation of Australia's 110 billion yuan international education industry has been dealt another blow by the sudden collapse of the Global Campus Management Group, which ran four colleges in Sydney and Melbourne with 3,000 foreign students, a thousand of whom were from China.

The collapse is particularly embarrassing for the federal government, which has been working hard to rebuild the industry's battered image after hundreds of the Sydney-based students' previous school, Global College, went broke last year and the Department of Immigration placed them under Global Campus.

According to evidence presented in a recent senate inquiry, nine other colleges have also closed this year.

Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard said the government took the reputation of the industry "very seriously" and was reviewing the laws that governed it.

The Australian Education Union called for Technical and Further Education (TAFE) positions to be made available to students whose colleges closed, to ensure they received the education they paid for.

The future is less certain for students studying English language, design and commercial cookery, most of whom had hoped to secure permanent residency after completing their studies.

Since the labor government will audit all private vocational schools, experts predict more closure.

In Victoria state, regulators are targeting 41 private schools for special audits, and according to one industry insider who did not want to be named, up to 25 may be shut down.

(Agencies)



The future of the students remains uncertain.

Solo experience

Dream education

Zhang Qi, a pseudonym, is one of the Chinese students who lost her school. She never thought her "perfect plan" to study in Australia and immigrate could be shattered.

"I was actually transferred from a bankrupt school to Meridian earlier this year. But now, just two weeks before my graduation, Meridian has collapsed. How can I believe the new school I'm being sent to this time won't go bust again?" she says.

Three years ago, Zhang was working as a nurse in a Shanghai hospital. When she heard that nursing study programs in Australia were an easy way to secure immigrant status after graduation, she resigned from her job and headed down under.

Her plan sounded fool-proof: she would look for a school through an overseas education agency. After graduating and becoming a registered nurse in Australia, she would apply for a permanent residence visa.

She did not expect so many twists.

"I had only been studying in Australia for a year when I heard

a nursing degree no longer made it as easy to apply for technical immigration. The English requirements for applicants became much higher," Zhang says.

She decided to shift to a course in cooking – a skill that she heard would be kinder to would-be-immigrants. That school went bankrupt early this year.

Zhang says the Australian government has promised to provide students like her another school in which to finish their studies and said their old school's closure would not delay graduation. But she has found no comfort in its promises.

"I have no idea what my future in Australia will be. Will my new school also close? Will the country change its immigration policy again? I'm facing so many uncertainties right now," Zhang says, adding she has already "wasted" three years in Australia and does not have any more time to give.

Statistics shows more than 140,000 Chinese students are enrolled in Australian schools. About 2,200 of them have been left in limbo by this round of school closures.

Analysis

Immigration policy, the reason for school closures

Australian vocational schools' short life span can be attributed to changes in the government's immigration policy in recent years, said Li Zhu, president of EIC Group, an international education agency in China.

Li said that Australia opened for immigration to foreign students in July 2001, allowing them to apply for Skilled Permanent Residence visas in "skilled occupations" as long as they did so within six months of completing their course.

The liberal immigration policies and low threshold for admission attracted many students from China and India, Australia's two biggest international student populations, he said.

"More private vocational schools sprang up to meet market demand, especially in 2006 and 2007," Li said.

The schools ushered in a sharp jump in immigration, resulting in a series of problems such as housing shortages and unemployment, Li said. Major changes to the immigration policy's skill requirements

and procedures were needed to alleviate these problems.

Since January 2009 the Australian government has been raising the immigration threshold little by little. It stopped processing visa applications of individuals from certain fields – even though the qualifications were earned in Australia and would make them eligible to become permanent residents, Li said.

Earlier this month, the Australian government began discussing the withdrawal of the policy that allows students to apply for permanent residency. The ministers of education and immigration have indicated the need for a clear distinction between education and skilled migrants. Foreign students are now also required to return to their home country before applying for permanent residency.

"The tighter immigration policy and reduction of the visa quota for international students has led to a sharp drop in the population of foreign students in Australia," Li said.

Background

Aussie vocational schools

A shortcut for foreigners to become permanent residents in Australia is to go through vocational schools. The country has two kinds: government-backed Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system and private vocational schools. Most of the schools that closed belong to the latter.

Vocational schools provide skills assessment in a Skilled

Occupation – such as hair-dressing and cooking – which the policy requires for Skilled Migration.

Vocational study programs last only one to two years. Afterwards, students must pass the English proficiency exam IELTS (International English Language Testing System) before applying for migrant status.

Why Krugman is wrong about the yuan

Revaluing China's currency would not help

Should China revalue its currency? Nobel economics laureate Paul Krugman's recent push for a stronger yuan triggered a war of words on yuan appreciation. However, many believe now is not the time to push for a stronger yuan.



Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman suggests the US government to demand that China devalue the yuan.
IC Photo

Paul Krugman's recent push for a stronger Chinese currency "was wrong," and such a move is bad for both the US and Chinese economies, a US expert said recently in an article on *Forbes'* website.

Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of the China Market Research Group, a strategic market intelligence firm, said that revaluing the yuan right now would "jeopardize the world's fledgling economic recovery."

Krugman, who is also a *New York Times* columnist, wrote recently in an editorial titled "World Out of Balance" that China severely undervalued the yuan and called on the US government to push for a stronger Chinese currency.

Citing Krugman's view that China needed to strengthen the

yuan to reduce America's trade deficit and spur worldwide recovery, Rein argued that "it is better for American businesses for China to maintain current yuan rates until the worldwide recovery is on a firmer footing."

He stated that if the yuan were to appreciate, billions of dollars of purchasing power would be taken from American consumers, which he said satirically would not make the upcoming holiday season "such a merry time."

With the US unemployment rate standing at 10.2 percent, the worst in more than 26 years, American consumers are already stretching their shopping dollars farther than they have in a longtime, he wrote.

Rein pointed out that the biggest currency problem in the world

right now "is not a weak yuan but a weak dollar."

A weak dollar is dangerous "because it means countries will be less likely to buy Treasury bills and finance America's recovery," Rein said.

"A weaker dollar won't help create more exports. It will just make things more expensive for Americans," because he said that foreign companies would turn to other low-cost labor markets like Vietnam.

Coincidentally, across the Atlantic Ocean, a business commentator from British newspaper *Daily Telegraph* wrote an article on the Chinese currency, expressing a view similar to that of the US expert. The article was headlined "It's time to stop beating

China up over its currency" and posted last Wednesday on the paper's website.

Jeremy Warner argued against the Western press, which he said is united against China's approach to currency reform and showed much sympathy for the Chinese point of view.

Regarding the revaluation of the yuan, Warner said it is perfectly reasonable for China to do it at its own pace. "Beijing dare not go faster to appreciate its currency because the internal demand is sharply growing."

"The West has enjoyed a free ride off the developing world for an awfully long time," he said, calling for rebalancing geo-political and economic power for the sake of the whole world. (Xinhua)

Exporters

Yuan appreciation would do harm

By Huang Daohen

Linda Mao, general manager of Zhejiang Yueya Textile Import & Export, has been keeping a close eye on the yuan's international exchange rates.

Although the yuan has only fluctuated slightly against the US dollar in the last few months, analysts have warned that the yuan might quicken its pace of appreciation soon.

And that worried Mao a lot.

The appreciation of the yuan will have a long-term effect on export companies like hers.

"Generally speaking, the

impact of a particular exchange rate movement is not big," she said. However, major losses would occur if there is a revaluation like that of last July's, the largest reform of China's foreign exchange system in 10 years.

"We had signed and delivered on orders, but by the time we wanted to do the foreign exchange transactions at the bank, the exchange rates had suddenly changed," Mao said.

In fact, if the yuan appreciates by 1 percent, the growth rate of textile exports will decrease by 1.5 percent, Mao said.

Moreover, since the majority of Chinese products are low-end and easily replaced, it would be difficult to expect foreign customers to absorb any extra costs. Mao said she has already felt pressure as many foreign customers have placed orders with Vietnam and Myanmar.

Many Chinese companies found themselves in the red as a result during last year's financial crisis, she said.

But, on the other side, Mao said this isn't necessarily a bad thing because it would force a shift for her company to make its prod-

ucts more valuable.

"Chinese companies should gradually change their business models from the high-quantity, low-cost kind to creating high-value brands," she said.

"This would help ensure that they get comparatively high returns while fending off risks like currency fluctuations."

Currently, firms only manage the manufacturing process, while their foreign customers manage branding and sales functions. This is why China enjoys only a small share of the international trade value chain, she said.

CEO forum focuses on economy after recession

By Huang Daohen

How will China and the rest of the world seize on opportunities presented in the post-recession global economy? The 2009 BusinessWeek CEO Forum held over the past weekend focused on China and the post-recession global economy.

Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said a commercial bank's interest rate should not be cut too low. Zhou cited the ongoing financial crisis, saying low interest rates will discourage banks from lending to businesses.

"Banks should turn to more profitable investments," he said.

Zhou said the central bank would have to make sure that policies push financial institutions to serve the real economy.

"Low or even zero percent interest rates, together with a low savings rate, won't give banks incentive to provide funding to the real economy. Banks will keep the liquidity to themselves because the cost is very low. In this case, banks are not helping the economy at all," he said.

Robert Mundell, the winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize in economics and "Father of the Euro," also spoke on that theme at the forum. When asked if the yuan has a chance of becoming a global reserve currency after the financial crisis, he said it may take decades.

"Usually there are only one or two big currencies in the world. Right now, the US economy is about 22 percent of the world economy. The European economy is about 18 percent. China is only 7 percent. So China is a long way behind," Mundell said.

However, Mundell said China will exceed not only the Europe on economy by 2030, but the US economy by 2050 if its growth continues.

"So in about 40 years, China may have the strongest currency in the world," he said.

Mundell said it was still too soon to talk about the yuan becoming a major world currency. But it was a good sign that some of China's neighbors were willing to use the yuan in cross-trade settlements.

BusinessWeek CEO Forum, in its 13th year, is the leading platform for business leaders to explore new developments on the CEOs' agenda globally and in Asia.

Government

Keep yuan stable at reasonable, balanced level

China will maintain a stable yuan, a senior Chinese diplomat said Wednesday, even as it continues to reform the exchange rate mechanism.

Vice Foreign Minister

Zhang Zhijun told a press briefing that it is not yet clear whether there will be discussions about yuan revaluation. But he did say the government will keep the yuan "basically

stable at a reasonable and balanced level."

The government will also continue to work to have a currency that is "market-based with reference to a basket of currencies."

His comments echo government rhetoric about the exchange rate and come on the eve of a China-European Union summit meeting, to be held on November 30 in Nanjing.

Why do the Cantonese eat cats?

7
Debate



By Zhang Dongya

A saying goes that "a cat has nine lives," but this does not seem true when it involves Cantonese dinner tables.

Local media in recent years have increasingly reported on rescues of cats about to be shipped to Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. But ailurophagy persists. On Monday, at least 800 cats were discovered in cages in Tianjin – en route to Guangzhou.

Why do Cantonese people eat cats? Is it a lack of education or geographic eating habits?

As of press time, the cats were being kept at a primary school in Tianjin's Hongqiao District. They would have been slaughtered in Guangzhou if not for the action of animal welfare volunteers and pet lovers.

"I haven't found my kitty yet, but some said they found theirs," said a woman who asked to be identified as Garbage Mom, a volunteer at Cats' Hope, a Tianjin-based network that rescues cats from slaughter.

The hundreds of caged cats were found in a cottage by a person looking for his missing cat. He immediately got in touch with Cats' Hope on the Internet. The group raided the cottage on Monday afternoon, discovering that another room in the house contained caged sparrows.

"We were shocked," Garbage Mom said by phone, adding it was the most caged cats she saw since the network was founded a year ago. A count revealed 39 cages with more than 800 cats.

Garbage Mom said her group encountered the "traders" at the cottage. The men, who looked 40 and spoke with a Tianjin accent, said they were shipping the cats to restaurants in Guangzhou.

The men only had a license to sell flowers, birds and fish. They are now detained at Shaogongzhuang Police Station in Hongqiao District.

They claimed to have bought the cats, but the rescuers believe most of the animals were taken from the street.

Garbage Mom, who lost her cat last week, said volunteers saw a few of the men trying to catch the cats with professional equipment. "They used a stringed bag with a sparrow inside to lure the cats," she said.

On Tuesday, the animals were moved to a primary school with the help of the China Small Animal Protection Association. More than 30 people – network volunteers and residents – have taken turns feeding and cleaning the cats.

"We're not yet allowed to set the cats free. The police said there are no laws or regulations concerning" what to do with rescued cats, Garbage Mom said. She said the network was willing to pay the traders to release the cats.

Why do Cantonese people eat cats? Is it a lack of class or merely geographic eating habits?



Volunteers at Cats' Hope, a Tianjin-based network, rescue cats from slaughter.



Over 800 cats were locked up in rows of iron cages in a store in Tianjin.

Photos provided by movshow.com

Comment

About health, not morality

I cannot judge Cantonese people for being moral or not just because they eat cats. Most of us will not refuse meat; we enjoy it. It is hard to tell apart chicken, duck or fish from cat meat. It is arbitrary to say eating cat is immoral but not other animal meat. It is Cantonese culture, so stop demonizing their behavior.

I lived in Guangzhou for many years yet never learned to eat cat. What I care about is whether it is hygienic. Cats served in restaurants haven't been inspected by the Food Safety Administration, so I decided not to eat cats.

– Zhou Yun, commentator with Guangzhou-based Information Times

Treat pets and food differently

The reason people raised animals was to address the problem of finding food. When food became sufficient, animals became pets. So eating cats is actually not a problem, not worth fighting or supporting. Treat it as normal. When a cat is your pet, take good care of it, but when it becomes food, accept it.

– No matches, netizen on dzh.mop.com

Kill them humanely

I don't think eating cats is necessarily cruel. It really depends on how the animals are killed. If we all kept chickens as house pets, we'd feel terrible about KFC.

I worked twice on a farm in Iowa in the

US, where I spent each day killing chickens to sell. I killed the chickens with a slight cut to the neck, and then they bled to death, which was hopefully not a very painful way to die. They just passed out.

As long as Cantonese people aren't stealing pets, or killing animals in unnecessarily painful ways, eating cats is just as wrong as eating chicken or lamb.

– Thomas Christensen, American working in China

Good companions

Cats and dogs are so cute and are good companions. I don't want to see cats being treated like this. I have a kitty and don't want to see this sort of thing continue happening.

– Meowboy, student

Meat is meat

Meat is meat. It is the psychological connection we have that allows us to differentiate between "pets" and "food." Or perhaps it's the dissociation between the cute little farm animals raised in the country and the neat, antiseptic packaging of tender little cuts of succulent meat at the local market.

I do not promote nor am I against eating cats, but when a few people stop others from eating cats, I bet the pigs, cows and sheep will all feel slighted.

– Parapraxis, netizen on chinasmack.com

Background

Canton's culinary culture

Cantonese cuisine is one of the most popular in China. Among its distinctive qualities is the use of mice, cats, snakes and wild animals as ingredients. Records on it go as far back as Xi Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 8) and Nan Song Dynasty (1127–1279).

A well-known traditional Cantonese dish, called Dragon, Tiger and Phoenix, is prepared using snake, cat and chicken meat, which are believed to promote health.

Soup, an essential part of the Cantonese menu, prominently feature cat and snake meat.

Candy Shi, who hails from Chaozhou, Guangdong, said she had cat meat at home

as a little girl. "We made braised cat with citron day lily, which was said to cure the body of humidity," she said.

In southern provinces such as Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian and Guangdong, a country fair called *xu* is held every week and sells poultry and animals including cats and dogs.

"People buy at the fair cats – which are very cheap – and cook them at home," Shi said. "To some Cantonese people, eating cat is no different from eating pork, beef or mutton."

She said restaurants serving cats and mice are common in small cities and counties, and they are never a topic of conversation among locals.

Canadian doctors retrace Bethune's journey

By Venus Lee

Members of the Bethune Memorial Association of Canada this month visited eight towns and cities where Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune worked during China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression to mark the 70th anniversary of his death.

The group of 17 medical professionals toured Beijing, Xi'an, Yan'an and Tianjin. During their two-week trip, they also lectured in medical schools, saw rural patients and donated equipment and drugs to medical centers.

Grant Stewart, the association's vice president, said he was impressed that people they met continued to hold Bethune in esteem. "He clearly remains a hero and a legend. People – not only the older villagers, but young students as well – expressed their affection for the surgeon and soldier and were proud to meet our group."

"Even amid illness and adversity, the smiles and enthusiasm of the patients we saw were inspiring," he said. "I believe that our association, which bears Bethune's name, brings renewed hope for local health and education."

Stewart said he was also impressed with the country's rapidly improving standard of living



The Canadian doctors were impressed by how Chinese people continue to hold Bethune in esteem.

Photo provided by Zhang Shuiping

and the situation in rural areas compared with how they were during the group's visit in 2007. "Many old villages have been rebuilt. Transportation systems everywhere have improved," he said.

Bethune, born in 1890, came to China in 1938 during the Sino-Japanese war. He set up a front-line mobile hospital where he performed surgery on wounded Chinese soldiers and was credited

with saving thousands of lives. He died of blood poisoning in 1939 from a cut received while performing surgery.

"He is noble-minded and pure, a man of moral integrity and above vulgar interests, a man who is of value to the people," Chairman Mao Zedong wrote in the article "In Memory of Norman Bethune," a eulogy to the surgeon published in 1939. For decades after, Chinese

school children studied the eulogy and many of the older people can still recite it. The country also named its highest award in medicine the Bethune Award.

Stewart said Bethune is not as well known in his native country. Although Stewart studied and trained at The University of Toronto like Bethune, half a century earlier, he and his schoolmates never heard about Bethune. "It was not

until my first visit to China that I learned of the stature of this man, and then I became interested in his achievements in his less than two years in China."

During Bethune's time in Canada, there were many other outstanding surgeons, medical innovators and researchers in the capital Toronto and its second largest city, Montreal. Bethune, hampered by his difficult and demanding personality, did not stand out.

"I don't believe Canadians then or now appreciate the legendary contributions Bethune made in China," Stewart said, adding the surgeon also worked in Spain, London, New York and Detroit, before coming to China.

Stewart, who looks like Bethune, has been mistaken for a relative a few times during his visit. "This is reinforced when the local medical centers learn that I'm also a surgeon and particularly interested in trauma surgery," he said.

Many children remember Bethune as a tall, thin and elderly man. "Perhaps that's what I portray. But Bethune was only 49 years old when he died, suggesting he was a sick, tired and prematurely aged and worn out man," Stewart, 71, said.

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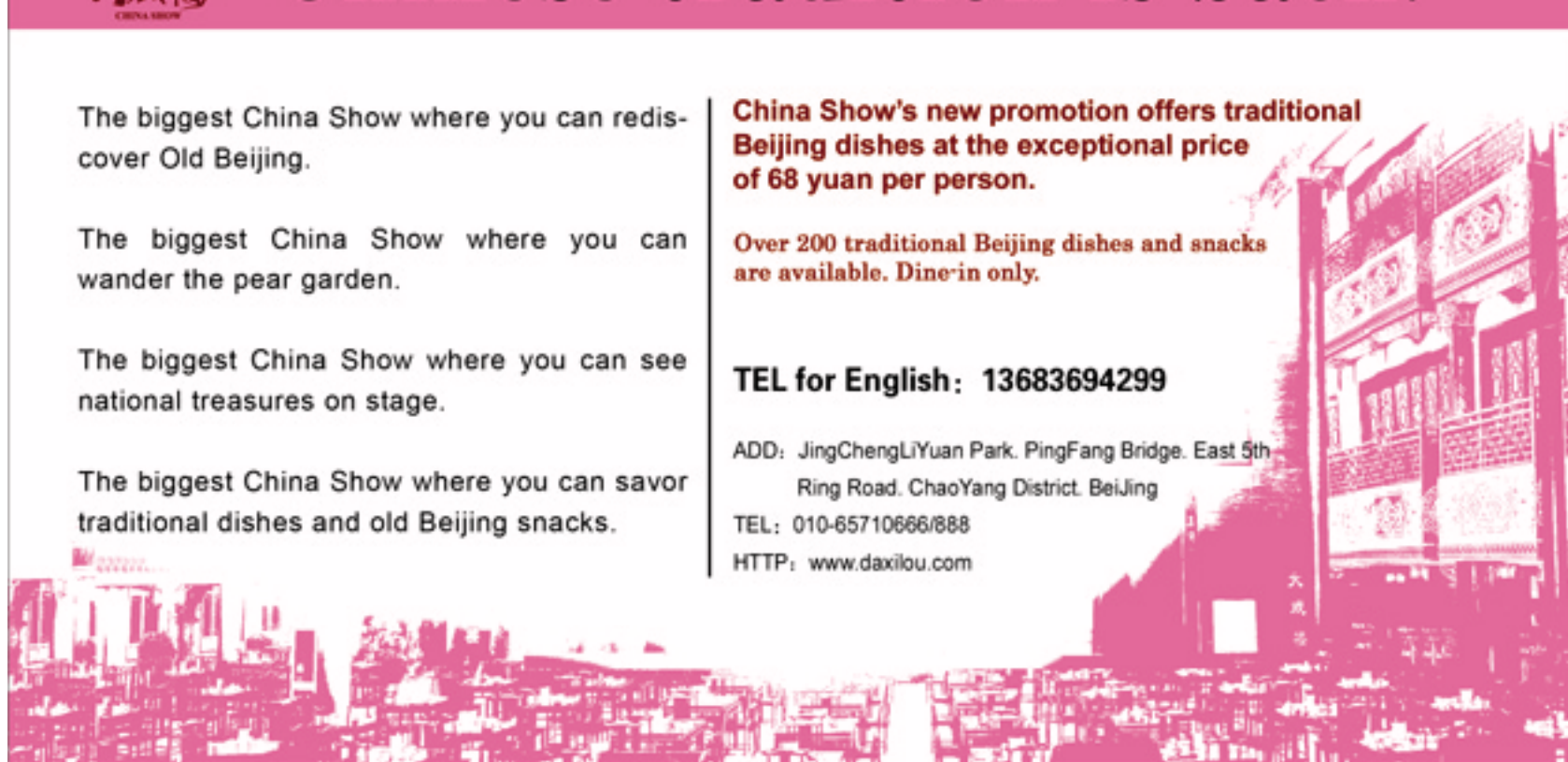
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EU chamber appeals for curbing of China's overproduction

By Zhao Hongyi

China is facing overproduction in the steel, aluminum, cement, chemicals, refining and wind power equipment sectors, a recent survey by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China says.

The report says the global economic crisis has throttled demand for Chinese exports at a time when even more investment, spurred by the Chinese government's massive stimulus package, is being pumped into building new plants and adding production capacity.

"This is having a severe effect on the Chinese economy," it says, citing resource waste, environmental degradation, disregard for health and safety standards and labor laws.

Companies facing overproduction are suffering from low profits, insufficient cash for research and design, lack of

innovation, non-performing loans (NPLs) and growing trade tensions worldwide.

"Our study shows that the impact of overproduction is insidious but far-reaching, affecting industries and damaging economic growth, not only in China but worldwide," Joerg Wuttke, president of the chamber, said at a media conference.

The findings show that overproduction is driven by a number of factors, such as high savings by state-owned enterprises, a decrease in demand in export markets, low domestic consumption, weak enforcement of regulations and low input prices due to government policies. There is also the extremely low cost of capital in the country and the fiscal system's encouraging local governments to attract excessive investment.

The report also blames the problem on local trade protec-

tionism, inexpensive and widespread availability of technology and lack of enforcement of environmental, health and safety overproduction standards.

The chamber suggests China shift its policy priorities away from investment- and export-oriented growth to a more balanced pattern of growth, driven by domestic consumption and a vibrant service sector. "This policy shift is the key to curbing industrial overproduction," the report says.

It also recommends cutting capital expenditure, increasing SOE dividend payments, redistributing Chinese household welfare like social security, health care and education, allowing market access to specialized and private financial service providers, and reforming the fiscal system to give localities more funding possibilities.

Other recommendations include: further opening the ser-

vice industry to the private sector, improving intellectual property protection and encouraging companies to spend more on research and development.

The report says the government acknowledged some of these problems. The State Council said this month that "it wants quality growth, and it wants to rebalance the economy and achieve sustainable growth."

The chamber says the reason it released the report was "to promote an open and constructive dialogue with the Chinese authorities in order to initiate and pursue necessary structural changes, to overcome the obstacles and drive China's economy to a new level of sustainable growth."

The report, prepared with Roland Berger Strategy Consultants in Shanghai, is based on a survey of the chamber's 1,400 member companies in China.

Number of Chinese students in US increasing

By Han Manman

As more Chinese students head to the US, more American college students are coming to Asian countries like China and India, a report recently released by the US Embassy in Beijing said.

The annual "Open Doors" report, a survey on foreign enrollments and American study abroad conducted by the Institute of International Education (IIE), reveals that the number of foreign students at American colleges and universities increased by 8 percent in the 2008 to 2009 academic year – the largest rise in more than 25 years.

The report noted that the number of Chinese students was rapidly increasing. Last year, 98,510 Chinese students went to the US, a 21-percent jump over the previous year. A quarter of the students were undergraduates, more than three times the proportion five years ago.

Peggy Blumenthal, executive vice president of IIE, said the growing population of Chinese undergraduates is changing the face of US campuses. "It used to be that they were all in the graduate science departments. But now, with the one-child policy, more and more Chinese parents are taking their considerable wealth and investing it in that one child getting an American college education," she said.

Ma Lan, education attache at the US Embassy, said this trend is partly the result of American universities' intense promotion work.

Many US students are likewise flocking to Asian nations like China and Japan. Students consider Chinese language ability an important asset for the job market, the report said.

US President Barack Obama, who made his first visit to China last week, said he wants to see a considerable growth in the number of American students going to China, with a target of 100,000 over the next four years. Presently, about 13,000 US nationals are studying in China, making the country the US students' fifth most popular study abroad destination.

China top priority for Mexican tourism



Young Mexican dancers perform a folk dance at the tourism road show.

By Zhao Hongyi

The Mexico Tourism Board (MTB) wrapped up its two-week Autumn 2009 Tourism Road Show in Beijing Monday with a traditional Mexican dance.

The board worked double-time to promote the country at a time when global tourism is reeling from the financial crisis and swine flu. China was the focus and top priority in the global campaign, said Eligio Serna, an MTB representative and tourism counselor at the Mexican Embassy.

The Central American nation has numerous tourist spots, including 26 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It has Mayan ruins, deserts, ancient architecture, more than 50 golf courses and beaches on the Yucatan Peninsula, with Cancun as core attraction.

"We strongly recommend the four big tourist blocks in the country," Serna said. "They're the Yucatan Peninsula in the east, Baja California in the west, Mexico City and Guadalajara in the center."

Aeromexico, which halted direct flights from Shanghai to Mexico City after the swine flu outbreak in Mexico, is scheduled to resume its twice-weekly flights in April. The airline is planning to start direct flights between Beijing and Mexico City as well.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi



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TED invades Beijing

By Annie Wei

Two Fridays ago, the gate of CNEX Saloon Cafe was covered with photographs and names of Beijing's most popular expats. There was Dominic Johnson-Hill, the British founder and creative director of Plastered T-shirts; Elyse Ribbons, the American founder of Cheeky Monkey Theater; and Chinese-American Kaiser Kuo, writer, rock musician and culture critic.

It was the first gathering of TED x Beijing, the local arm of TED (technology, entertainment and design), a non-profit organization founded in the US 25 years ago that promotes "ideas worth spreading."

The theme for the day's talks, organized by online social network Cmun and Youchange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation, was "discovering passion."

Most of the speakers were either US nationals or US-educated, including Steven Schwankert, president of Sinocuba diving club, who talked about exploration using technological innovation like Google Maps; and Kristie Lu Stout, anchor and correspondent at CNN Hong Kong, who talked about how she was inspired to come and work in Asia a decade ago.

Ines Brunn, an eco-minded German cyclist, wowed the audience with her bicycle stunts. She also talked about building up cycling in China as a sport and hobby, and encouraging its resurgence as a daily mode of transportation to help cut carbon emissions. Meanwhile, Johnson-Hill made everyone laugh with a video he created for his *shanzhai*, or copycat, fashion show at Nan Luogu Xiang.

TED events are very popular in the US, said Andres Moline, head of Concepto Studios, a design firm based in Miami Beach, Florida. "There are a lot of great speeches. You can watch them on its website," he said. The "most-favored all time" on ted.com include "How the Internet enables intimacy," "Asia's rise - how and when," and "The thrilling potential of sixth-sense technology."

TED is known for its eclectic



TED x Beijing's first event at CNEX Saloon Cafe

Photos by Michele Travieso

speakers giving passionate and inspiring talks, like former US President Bill Clinton, Microsoft Founder Bill Gates, scientist Jane Goodall, designer Philippe Starck and Bono, lead singer of U2.

The group's first Beijing affair was free - but tickets in the US normally cost \$6,000 (41,000 yuan), *BusinessWeek* magazine reported.

Local media came to see what the fuss was about: representatives from CCTV's education channel and major portals like Sina.com and Tudou.com took up spots in one corner of the cafe. Beside them were new tech fanatics busy twittering or blogging the day's events.

Organizers provided simultaneous interpretation in English, food and drink, and transportation to the closest subway station.

To watch speeches from the event, visit tudou.com/home/tedxbeijing.



Ines Brunn, an eco-minded German cyclist, is wowing the audience with her bicycle stunts.

A happy, heartwarming, Christmas tradition ready for Decemeber



Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Photo by Sophie Sun

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge is a heartwarming family comedy that takes place one year after *A Christmas Carol*, produced by Beijing Playhouse, directed by Michael Gralapp with assistant directors Rod Archer and Nancy Pellegrini.

Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Past, Present and Future decide to settle once and for all the true meaning of Christmas. Tickets are already available.

Where: Theater at Yew Chung

International School of Beijing, East Gate of Honglingjin Park, 5 Houbalizhuang, Chaoyang District

When: December 4 - 27, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm; Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Performed in English with Chinese subtitles

Email: performace@beijing-playhouse.com

Cost: 260 yuan in advance, 300 yuan at the door, 400 yuan for opening night, and 130 yuan for children and students on family night.

Event

Bollywood dancing at Ganges

Bollywood dance performances happen at Ganges restaurant every week. Beautiful women dressed in colorful sari dance to modern and traditional Bollywood music, just like in the movies!

Where: Ganges, Entrance 1, 3/F Building S9, The Village, 39 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Thursday and Friday, 6-9:30 pm
Tel: 6416 0181

Lessons on Chinese painting and calligraphy

East & West Studio, an institution dedicated to promoting Sino-foreign cultural exchange, offers training in traditional painting and calligraphy. The center, founded in 2002, has organized many exchange and training activities with teachers from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, National Academy of Chinese Theater Art and Beijing Normal University.

Where: Ya'ao School, 2 Yangshan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday, 9:30-11:30 am
Tel: 5979 2176
Cost: Free

Alternative music developers

An alternative music scene is taking shape in Beijing, revolving around electronic, techno and house music. Record producers, event organizers, club managers and DJs who contribute to this development will talk about their experience. Speakers include Milky, Tango's event producer; Thomas Gaestadius, White Rabbit's manager; and DJ Mickey Zhang. The session will be moderated by music journalist Dan Stephenson.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 27, 6-7:30 pm
Tel: 6438 6675

Ski and snowboard promotion weekend

Duolemeidi, a Hebei ski resort four hours from downtown Beijing, has a high-speed ski-lift, several challenging slopes and a park for beginners and intermediate skiers. The tour bus leaves from the north gate of the Workers' Stadium at 7 pm Friday and returns early Sunday evening.

Where: Duolemeidi, Xiqueliang, Xitazui Village, Chongli County, Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province

When: November 27-29
Tel: 8453 5186

Cost: 600 yuan (includes transportation, basic accommodations and a one-and-a-half-day lift ticket)

(By Wei Ying)

Animal welfare and shelter seminar happens next week



Stray cats and dogs in shelters wait to be adopted.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

The International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) is holding its first Animal Welfare and Shelter Management Seminar next Saturday.

The event's objective is to share with animal shelters and animal welfare groups the most effective practices in shelter management and medicine to promote healthier animals and successful adoptions. "Shelter" includes individuals and volunteer organizations that rescue and foster animals.

The seminar will cover topics such as shelter operations management, fund raising and financial control, evaluation of the behavior of animals for adoption, infectious disease control and the benefits of neutering or spaying.

Most of the talks will be given in Chinese, with translation in English. Some speakers, like Dr. Zenithson Ng from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in New York, will present in English.

This seminar is free to invited guests,

shelter managers and volunteers. Interested parties need to confirm their attendance via email and provide ICVS with their personal details and contact information.

Animal Welfare and Shelter Management Seminar

Where: The Canadian International School of Beijing, 38 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 5, 9 am – 2 pm (registration begins at 8:30 am)

Tel: 8456 1939 (The ICVS)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I heard that cabs in town are going to increase their fare because of higher fuel prices. How much is the price hike and when is it happening?

According to the municipal traffic authority, all cabs will charge an extra 1 yuan for trips beyond 3 kilometers starting Wednesday, November 25. Drivers are required to present a receipt for the additional 1 yuan.

Where can I buy pure-bred kittens such as British, Burmese or Scottish folds?

A pet shop near the north gate of the Workers' Stadium, named Yiya Shijie Chongwuyuan, has British Shorthairs that cost around 6,000 yuan. You can try bargaining. It also has other pure breeds from time to time. It is on 34 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District, on the same side of the stadium. You can take Subway Line 2 to Dongsishitiao station, then go on foot from Exit C.

(By Wei Ying)

Community Christmas fair calls for participants

By Annie Wei

The Orchard and CoffeeArtCafe are inviting participants to their first International Christmas Fair on December 5, from noon to 9 pm, at The Orchard.

They are looking for the following participants:

1. Food vendors: Give guests an opportunity to sample delicacies from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, North America and South America.

2. Performers: Present songs and dances from your home country. Carolers, choirs and individual musicians are welcome.

3. Crafts and games organizers: Share your festive traditions and skills with locals and other foreigners. The Orchard will help set up the craft-making stations.

4. Teachers and activity directors: Help plan and organize Christmas-themed activities for the children, such as coloring, Christmas cookie-decorating and craft-making.

5. Vendors, independent designers, small business owners, restaurant managers and individuals with creative ideas: Sell your Christmas-themed or cultural gift items. Gift-wrapping services suggested so that products have a

stronger appeal to people shopping for Christmas presents.

The fair is an opportunity to display your products, show others how they are made or give away samples. The fee for tables is 50 yuan for charitable organizations and 200 yuan for businesses.

To book a table or to find out more, email theorchardbj@yahoo.com.

The Orchard

Where: Hegezhuang Village, Cuigezhuang Township, Chaoyang District

When: December 5, noon – 9 pm

Tel: 6433 6270

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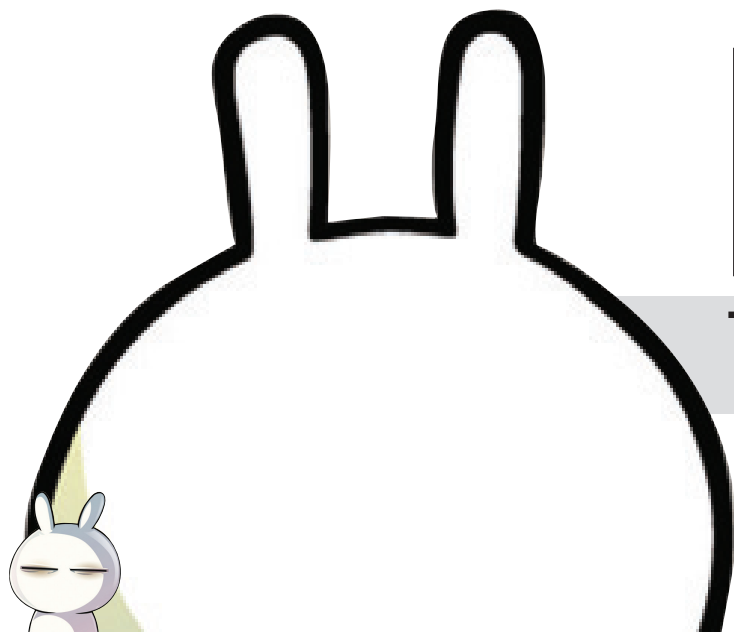
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Life in Te

The story of Tuzki

By Wang Yu

Chinese netizens would probably find it weird to hear someone has never used a bunny emoticon. With its big head and slitted eyes, the bunny expresses many human emotions. It can slam into Tuzki, the bunny, is part of a new generation of stars created on the Internet to improve communication. When the bunny became part of Internet culture, it made its creator Wang Liyuan a college celebrity. The emotions of the bunny's shy creator.

Birth of the bunny

In December 2006, Wang Liyuan was stunned when she received a message from her cousin in Tianjin. The message had an animated cartoon bunny making extravagant gestures to express her happiness.

But it was not the character's appearance that stunned her.

The bunny was an icon she had created and sent to a classmate only a week before. But once on the Internet, it spread in ways she never expected.

Her cousin's message was the catalyst that unleashed Wang's creativity – within weeks she made several more icons and posted them on her blog.

And so began Tuzki.

At the time, Wang was on her third year of college as an animation student at the Communication University of China. An introvert since childhood, she did not like going out with others to shop or engage in the normal social activities of young women. She was also coming off an addiction to online games.

All she did every day was draw. In the beginning, Wang was planning to make Tuzki a comic. However she found the usual emoticons on QQ and MSN were insufficient for expressing herself, and so she looked to the bunny.

Tuzki's name was created as a portmanteau of *tu*, Chinese for rabbit, and *zki*, from Zebatinski, a character in Isaac Asimov's *Spell My Name with an S*. Although lacking a nose and mouth, the simple bunny expresses frustration with morons, the gloom of a heavy workload and silly fun.

"Zebatinski's life changes when he begins to use S as his name. Something similar happened to me when the bunny's name changed from having an 's' to having a 'z.' It was a turning point in my life," Wang says.

Another me

Born in December 1985 in Tianjin, Wang grew up in a single parent family. She never met her father.

As a child, she chose to stay home with her books and drawings rather than play with others. Since her second year in college, Wang has tried to be financially independent to lighten the load on her mother, who discovered her talent for drawing as a child and supported her art training.

After Tuzki found Internet fame, Wang agreed to an interview. But reporters were frustrated with how difficult it was to make her speak. Many comic artists are notoriously poor at communicating, and Wang is no exception.

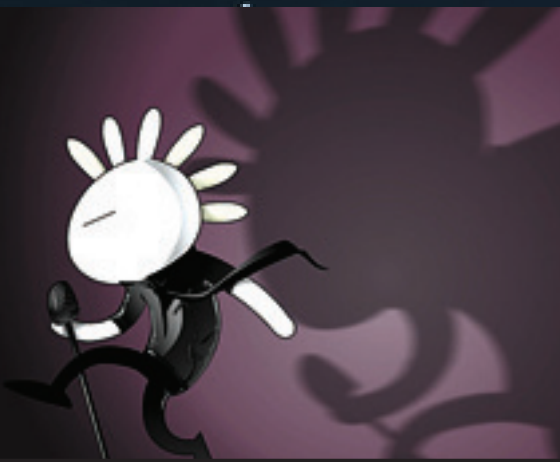
"I was isolated since I was young and afraid of speaking with strangers or in public. Though I feel better these days when I have to face new people, I still hope I can remain private. I'd rather have people focus on Tuzki than on myself," Wang says.

Like his creator, Tuzki is an oddball in the rabbit world. The 1.2-meter-high bunny hates carrots and is animated and expressive in the way Wang fears to be.

Tuzki is also popular for his "careers": in various comics he has been an astronaut and a gangster. His achievements are the ones which Wang is too reserved to dare.

"The illustrations are inspired from my everyday life. He definitely shares some of my characteristics. Everyone has two sides and I throw the positive traits to Tuzki," Wang says.

Like many brilliant comic artists, Wang has little interest in marketing. She quit the design firm she was working



for, which wanted to make Tuzki-related merchandise like postcards, posters and T-shirts. The company's proposed 86 yuan for a Tuzki T-shirt was more than she was willing to allow fans to suffer.

New career, new book

Wang was successful as a comic artist even as a student, but she never thought of dropping out of school, even though she said most of her classes were a waste of time. During the semester when she was working full time as a designer, Wang skipped every class of the year and failed one of her final exams.

"I've never thought of dropping out. My mother would have been pissed off if I did. I'm not that rebellious," she says.

So she had to wait until her graduation. Last year, Wang signed with Time Warner as an illustrator and moved to Hong Kong. Her job is part of the media giant's project to raise creative artists in Asia. Wang hopes the company can help her join the international scene and create more opportunities for Tuzki.

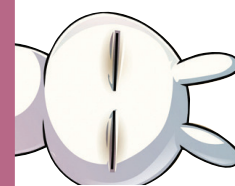
The young artist splits her time between her apartment and office. She starts her day at 9:30 am, breaks for lunch at noon and meets with novel and photography firms during the down time. Her light brown cat Joker is her family in Hong Kong.

Recently, Wang released her first illustration album both in Hong Kong and on the mainland. They comment on life, love, family and destiny. Compared with the simple icons, the book greatly expands on Tuzki's world and character.

"There is a true story of my life behind every picture in the book. Only if there is a wall in front of you can you learn to knock it down. Only if there is a river in front of you can you learn to cross. That's what I've learned from the past and what I am trying to tell readers," Wang says.

Some see Tuzki as a symbol of the ideas and lifestyle of the '80s generation. Many people who grew up during that period are reclusive and live in their own world. Community forms only where those worlds intersect. But Wang brushes away the cynics.

"Tuzki has grown, and so have I. Thanks to this bunny, I have been to places I have never dreamed of, met new people and made friends. That was impossible in the past. After all, if you've borne the pain of life alone then you know what it means to share happiness with others. That's what Tuzki teaches fans," Wang says.



chnicolor

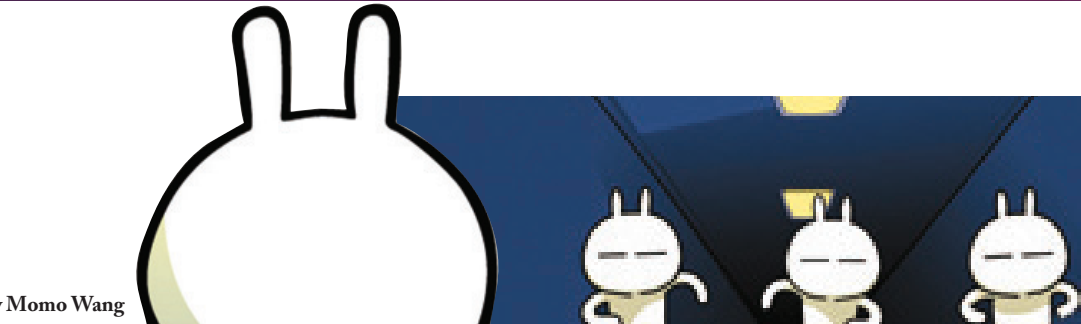
con while chatting on QQ or MSN.
o the wall to express depression or pull out a red heart from behind its back to show love.
unication.
elebrity. She recently published a new book about Tuzki, and it offers a rare glimpse into



"Momo" Wang, the creator of Tuzki, likes to hide behind her famous bunny. Photo provided by Momo Wang



"The illustrations are inspired from my every-day life. He definitely shares some of my characteristics. Everyone has two sides and I throw the positive traits to Tuzki."



Woodstock, the garden of American counterculture

By Charles Zhu

Pete Fornatale, an award-winning New York city radio broadcaster, tries to relive the scene of rock 'n' roll, peace and love at the Woodstock festival four decades ago in his book *Back to the Garden: The Story of Woodstock* (303pp, Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, \$24.99).

On Friday, August 15, 1969, a crowd of elated 400,000 youths gathered in Republican Max Yasgur's farm in upstate New York for a weekend of rock 'n' roll, the new form of American music. For US's hippies, Woodstock became a Mecca of counterculture and a symbol of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

Fornatale retells some stories that have never been told and rectifies some common misperceptions about the already mythologized pop culture milestone. The book, illustrated with black-and-white photographs, is an authoritative and highly interesting read about the three days of peace and music in American cultural history.

Fornatale quoted 110

sources who spent that August weekend in the rain and haze. "It was unique in that there were a half-million people not stabbing each other to death at a concert, and that hadn't been done before," said Grace Slick, who sang there with Jefferson Airplane. "Nobody killed anybody, nobody raped anybody, nobody shot anybody. In the history of humankind, I think it's probably the only group of people of that size that didn't do any of that," said David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash.

One woman who attended recalled the lasting ferocious smell rather than the music. "It was the most horrific stench I have ever smelled in my life. And once I got done with what I had to do there, I literally had to walk around to clear my head a little bit because I thought I was going to fall down."

Yet the 400,000-strong youthful musical crowds

seemed oblivious of the smell and happily cheerful. As if in reply to a *New York Times* story about "what kind of culture is it that can produce so colossal a mess?" Pete Fornatale quoted a musician as saying, "It was drizzling and very cold, but

they were so happy in the mud; they were all stoned, of course, but they were enjoying it. It reminded me of the water buffaloes you see in India, submerged in the mud."

People shared food at the campsite and refrained from pushing or shoving when it was overcrowded and it seemed everybody was extremely polite. Monticello's police chief said these were "the most courteous, considerate and well-behaved group of kids" he had ever dealt with.

John Roberts, a wealthy 24-year-old and the major financial backer, heroically decided to keep the festival going after the ticket booths had gotten stuck in traffic and the fences around the site had been broken into a mess. His business venture was dashed to pieces and it became a free concert.

He also persuaded Gov. Nelson Rockefeller not to send the National Guard in to close down the concert. He tried to keep the festival going by offering hard cash for acts whose managers refused to perform unless they were paid in advance. He had a local bank open in the middle of the night so that the WHO could be persuaded to play. He was stuck in the business office the whole time and never got to see any of the concerts, though he was a fan of Gershwin.

Fornatale tries to explain what Woodstock meant to America and to its culture. "Woodstock was about the passing of the torch to the next generation," Fornatale says. He quotes Abbie Hoffman as defining it as "a nation of alienated young people ... dedicated to cooperation versus competition, to the idea that people should have better means of exchange than property or money."

This indeed implies some idealism, which has kept the memory of Woodstock alive for four decades.



365 days in China and Germany

By He Jianwei

1949 was a significant year for both China and Germany. This year, both countries celebrated their 60th anniversaries.

To celebrate the anniversary, Thinking Hands has published *1989: 365 Art Days in China and Germany*, a new picture book edited by Chinese and German artists. The book is available in both hardcover (522pp, 680 yuan) and softcover (522pp, 530 yuan).

The book is a reflection on the fateful occurrences that changed both countries in 1989. For Germany, it marked the reunion of the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin into a single city-state.

"It is an honest and earnest re-examination of 1989 through works of visual art in both Germany and China," Huang Rui, editor of the book, said.

The photos touch upon all aspects of 1989 – its cultural movements, social life and natural landscape. Editors arranged the photos chronologically: month by month and day by day.

Nearly 200 artists – photographers and writers from China and Germany – participated in the book. It contains some 377 classic works from 1989.

Another 24 photographs document the history of Germany and China from 1949 to 2009. This artistic material takes on unique meaning within the clear chronological structure: it reflects not only the profound changes of that year, but also its grand artistic works.

Huang visited Germany several times this year to collect the German artists' works. "It is difficult for us to collect photos taken by German artists.

Most of the photos were published in magazines 20 years before, and those magazines don't exist anymore. It took time to negotiate copyrights with the photographers," he said.

The book predominantly uses photos taken by East Germans. "Their works are lost memories and must be preserved," Huang said. "The Eastern German artists were confounded by reality, so their works came out in performance and stage art."

Photos focus on ordinary people – their portraits, life and relation with their circumstances.

One-third of the 3,000 copies sold out within two weeks, Huang said Tuesday at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art meeting with readers.

Timezone8 book listing

Timezone8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three new titles for *Beijing Today* readers.

Chinese Ink Painting Now

By Jason C. Kuo, 272pp, Timezone8, \$60

A fresh look at a 21st-century art form that has been evolving for more than a millennium. The book offers a survey of 58 leading artists working in the medium today: avant-garde, traditional and experimental ink artists from the Chinese mainland, North

America, Hong Kong, Europe, Taiwan and Australia.

Sun Yuan and Peng Yu: Can't Have it All

By Leng Lin, Josef Ng, Han Jiyun and Federica Beltrame, 248pp, Timezone8, \$50

Regarding their 'biological landscapes,' which left people altogether intrigued, struggling and compelled, the artists concur: "No matter whether we are using animals or machines, or any materials, we are talking about an order that is also an ecology. It may be different from the existing order, in which case it may react strongly or col-

lide with it. Yet, they are life forms, growing and changing constantly and ceaselessly."

Dragon and Rose Garden: Art and Power in China

By Sus van Elzen, 204pp, Timezone8, \$19.95

In this book, Sus van Elzen investigates the transformation of China and the city of Beijing from 1949 up to the 2008 Olympics. Her focus is the role of artists and architects.

(By He Jianwei)



Dreams on a string

By Wang Yu

Most young people born in the early 1980s can remember their first yo-yo. In the early 1990s, Coca-Cola launched a huge promotion where it gave away glitter yo-yos printed with the logos of Coke, Sprite and Fanta.

For most, their enthusiasm for the toys vanished fast. Kids grew up and abandoned their yo-yos to dusty closets.

Well, at least most people did.

One hardcore and skilled yo-yoer decided to make a career out of the sport. While opportunities are few and the pay is low, he and other professionals around the world are reluctant to abandon their favorite toys.



China's only pro

On their way into Dico's Ximenpo in Xichang, Sichuan Province, diners always see a curly-haired young man playing with his yo-yo.

The toy rapidly climbs the rope to his black half-finger gloves and dances in strange patterns no one ever imagined. Sometimes there is also a video camera to record his daily performance: an online inspiration for yo-yoers all over the country.

"The walls of my room are all smashed up by my yo-yo. This place has enough space for me to practice. But really, the reason I come here is to show off my skills like at a competition," says Luo Yicheng, China's yo-yo champion.

Luo is well-known in the yo-yo scene as "baishui," which means plain water in English.

"I just focus on practice. My parents are typical Sichuan people and don't put any pressure on me. They just want me to devote myself to something I really love, and that's enough for them," says the 26-year-old.

Luo signed with a yo-yo manufacturer one year ago and became the only Chinese professional yo-yoer who earns his living by performing. Every year he takes part in international competitions around the world – from Orlando to Singapore. Besides his championships in Asia, his most exciting performance was at the last World Yo-Yo Contest in Orlando. Luo ranked No. 4 on his first trip to the US, and that attention helped him win a toy company contract.

The World Yo-Yo Contest is the biggest event in the international yo-yo scene and he was up against the elite yo-yoers who, before then, he had only read about.

"I promised the company I could make it to the finals if they sponsored me in the US. Their chairman agreed and I somehow made it. All I have to do is keep my skills honed so that I can hang onto the contract," Luo says.

Luo got his first yo-yo in 1995 as the prize in a bag of oatmeal. For him, it brought new hope.

Three years before, Luo had retreated from life after he developed gluteal muscle contracture – the permanent side effect of a month on penicillin. His feet no longer worked right, and he walked like something out of a Charlie Chaplin movie.

His yo-yo opened the door to a new world, and Luo began developing his hands. The first trick he learned was throwing a sleeper – a trick throw that keeps the yo-yo spinning at the end of the string and the basis of many other tricks. The basic skill took him two years to master before he got a new yo-yo.

He made rapid progress with the new yo-yo, and spent 45 hours on a train to Guangzhou to meet and learn from other yo-yoers.

Though the yo-yo brought him comfort and happiness, he could not overcome his disability. In 2004, he found a doctor in Wuhan willing to operate on him, and Luo left school to find work at a yo-yo maker in Jiangsu Province.

His job was simple: he was to play with the yo-yo outside a school to attract primary school students to buy yo-yos. He slept at night in the basement of a suburban complex.

"It was not a smart way to promote the toy. I had to play at the gates every day until the students got sick of me. At least I was already used to being laughed at," Luo says. Four months later, he saved enough money for the surgery and was looking forward to a return to normal life.



The first historical evidence of a yo-yo-like device dates back to 500 BC in Greece.

Still a toy

In 2006, Luo took part in the Asia Pacific Yo-Yo Championship but did not enter the finals. His grandfather died, leaving the family in chaos. But Luo's parents borrowed money to support him.

"If you have never been to an international event, you can't imagine how big the scene is," Luo says. He met many famous yo-yoers and shared his experiences with them.

The toy was first introduced to mainland China in 1990 by Guo Hengjun, a yo-yo company owner from Taiwan. It took the main cities by storm in a short time. But Guo only promoted his products and had little interest in training, tricks and yo-yo culture. The toys were quickly abandoned.

Last year, the scene experienced a revival. The toy manufacturer that Luo signed with invested in a TV series about yo-yos which attracted teenagers. Luo also released two books about yo-yo history and designed his own professional model under the label.

"Yo-yos are still a kids' toy here. That really holds the scene back. Usually the shows are organized for students in primary schools, and all the books I've written on the topic were required to be childish so they would be in line with the publisher's promotion agenda," Luo says.

There are no official yo-yo associations in China, though there are a few small clubs. Most yo-yoers do not take it seriously, and look at it as a fun diversion. That brings a lot of misunderstandings when Luo introduces himself as a professional yo-yoer.

"They set a bad example for the beginners who want to go pro," Luo says.

Without a big scene, it is impossible to attract sponsors and manufacturers. The less money in the industry, the harder it is to go pro. Without a big market, it is also hard for the scene to grow. Luo says there used to be about 50 good yo-yoers in China. Today, the number is much less.

"People focus too much on profit. It's understandable, but not always right," Luo says.

Luo hopes his performance at international events can help promote yo-yos at home. Organizing an official yo-yo association to bring in more young players is his ultimate plan, though its realization remains far off.

"But I won't give it up, that's for sure. No profession ever exists until someone devotes himself to creating it. It's the same with yo-yos," Luo says.



Luo Yicheng signed with a yo-yo manufacturer one year ago and became the only Chinese professional yo-yoer who earns his living by performing it.

Photos provided by Luo Yicheng

Emergency stash

Food to help survive the winter

By Zhao Hongyi

Ancient Chinese people believed winter was the season to eat more and better, to recover the energy spent in summer and fall. This, plus the difficulty of finding fresh vegetables in the frigid northern winter, resulted in a tradition of storing food for the season.

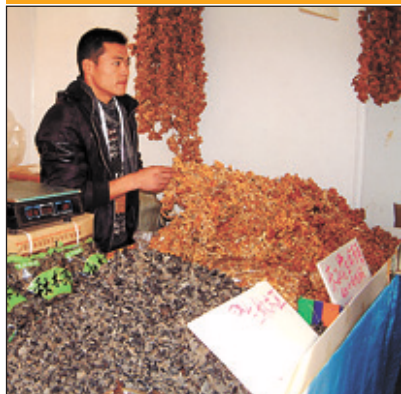
Though industrialization and globalization makes almost everything available year-round, locals have kept the practice of setting aside food for winter. The National Agri-products Fair sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, held November 13 to 24, offered people thousands of choices, such as dried seafood, processed meat, as well as tea and coffee.

Below are some of the highlights of the fair, a popular yearly event among Beijingers.



Dried wild fungi, 80 to 150 yuan per kilogram

CFP Photo



All assortment of dried food

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Assorted dried food

Locals also enjoy dried fruits like bananas, kiwis and dates. Beijing is famous for these products and visitors rarely go home without them. They are affordable and cost 20 to 50 yuan a kilogram.

Dried fungus and agarics comprise another category of dried food. They are popular additions to soups and fried dishes, together with meat, freshwater fish and seafood. Southerners love them, believing they have special health benefits since they are ingredients in traditional Chinese medicine.

Most medicinal fungi and agarics grow wild in the mountains. These "wild fungi"

sell at 80 to 150 yuan per kilogram, about 40 to 50 yuan more than their cultivated counterparts.

Another type of dried food popular at the National Agri-products Fair was bamboo root. Bamboo, which grows in almost all the provinces south of the Yangtze River, is a southern staple and has become more popular in the north in the past decade.

Dried bamboo root is used in preparing soup and other watery or sauce-filled dishes.

Rongshi Dried Food

Add: 35 Chang'an Lu, Xinghua, Zhejiang Province

Tel: 15952659855 (Look for Rong Jie)



Seafood from the eastern coastline

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Dried seafood

While the country's eastern coastline yields an abundant harvest of seafood, people in the landlocked west and heartlands have to content themselves with dried seafood. They were kept in constant supply by easterners, and this eventually developed into a huge industry.

Dried seafood has dozens of categories, including small fish, shrimp, oyster, kelp, sea cucumber and abalone. They are popular as snacks all year round and also serve as cooking ingredients in dishes such as soup or hot pot. People believe eating dried seafood is a way to stay healthy during the cold season and is an ideal option for the cash-strapped.

Most dried seafood from the south is small, since people there emphasize taste rather than quantity. Northern producers, like those in Shandong and Liaoning provinces, prefer bigger seafood. Dalian's shrimp are actually bigger than those from Scandinavia.

Dried seafood, popular among children and office workers, is relatively inexpensive; it costs 20 to 80 yuan per kilogram. Bulk purchases are even cheaper.

Guangdong Brothers Seafood

Where: 624 Kengkou Nancun, Fang Village, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province

Tel: 020-8151 5503; 13602837859 (Look for Wu Jingmeng)

Dalian Changhai Seafood

Where: Guanglu Island, Changhai, Dalian, Liaoning Province

Tel: 0411-8182 8480; 15942668635; 15871250284



Green tea, 50 to 2,000 yuan per kilogram

CFP Photo

Tea

One of the fair's most eye-catching products was tea, mainly Pu'er and oolong tea from the south. "It's good to have heavy tea after a big meal, especially fish," a merchant from Yunnan Province said. "It aids digestion."

Chen Yuxi, a tea producer from Fujian Province who has a store in town, said, "I want to change the habit of northerners who only drink jasmine tea. You need to diversify the types of tea you drink." Besides oolong, he also sells longjing and biluoqun, green teas from Zhejiang Province.

Chen, who has been in the industry for two decades, sold more than 100 kilograms of tea on the fair's opening day. Prices ranged from 50 to 2,000 yuan per kilogram. "We do both wholesale and retail business," he said.

Xihua Tea Factory

Where: Jingma Tea Wholesale Market, Maliandao tea street, Fengtai District

Tel: 6332 5723; 13599199926; 18605933188 (Look for Chen Yujian)

Sausages

Harbin, a city in the country's northernmost Heilongjiang Province, is nicknamed Little St. Petersburg. Because of its geographic proximity and historical ties to Russia, the city has the feel of the former Russian capital. As proof, tourists only need look at its architecture, food and local culture.

Harbin was once the largest sanctuary for Russian Jews who fled the country after its revolution in the early 20th century. The refugees brought with them Russian bread, sausages and their favorite soup recipe. Many set up businesses in Harbin in the mid 20th century, then expanded to other parts of the country.

At the fair, a number of Harbin food manufacturers sold Russian sausages and the Russian bread lieba. The sausages came in various flavors, sizes and shapes; some were round, others triangular and square. Lieba,

made from pure wheat powder, was huge, big enough for three hungry people.

"We Harbin natives like to have sausage everyday," said a young sales lady from Harbin Qiulin-Ridos, the city's largest Russian food producer. She said they did not like traditional Chinese sausages, which were "too small and contain little meat."

The Harbin local government is planning to promote the city's sausages and bread throughout the country, believing they will be competitive in the market. "I'm sure other Chinese people will like these foods. They are big, tasty and healthy enough," the sales lady said.

Harbin Qiulin-Ridos Food

Add: 4 Sanxin Lu, Xiangfang District, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province

Tel: 0451-8268 1280

Web: qiulinfood.com



Harbin-made Russian sausages

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Where locals dine

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* reports two restaurants well loved by locals for their consistently good food and affordability.

Meanwhile, more and more young Chinese diners have found a way to further limit spending by downloading from sozhe.com coupons to these restaurants.



Mushroom soup, 20 yuan

Photo by Rain

Updated Japanese buffet

By Annie Wei

A casual winter Friday dinner at Kuromatsushiroshika, a Japanese restaurant on Xinyuan Li, was a gregarious affair. Some diners started with a salad, others grilled oysters (18 yuan each) or whelk (88 yuan per dish).

There was the vegetable club salad (25 yuan), a mixture of carrots, cucumber and yam; and papaya and seafood salad (38 yuan). Seasoned kelp (18 yuan) made a good appetizer and later, refresher for those who had too much sashimi.

We particularly liked the vinegary mosohu (15 yuan), a seaweed-made drink presented like champagne, and the burdock hand roll (15 yuan).

The restaurant, called Heisong Bailu in Chinese, has three outlets in Chaoyang District and has built a good reputation for its fresh food and cozy atmosphere.

It is also popular for its luxurious – albeit pricey – buffet that offers diners as much sea urchin as they want. We've seen some customers demolish in one sitting a dozen sea urchins. Others come for the shrimp – small but plump and sweet.

The restaurant's specialty includes light-tasting beef sashimi (50 yuan), prepared with spring onions and home-made sauce; kajikimaguro (78 yuan), white tuna that is rarer and more tender than the red variety; and roro nigiri (15 yuan each) a combination of white tuna and sea urchin. The salmon come in thick slices.

There's also goosfish liver (38 yuan), a cold dish that resembles foie gras, and mushroom soup (20 yuan) served in traditional Japanese blue porcelain. The waitress suggested squeezing lemon juice into it to accent its flavor.

Kuromatsushiroshika's teppanyaki are customer favorites: mushroom teppanyaki (18 yuan), salmon teppanyaki (48 yuan), cod teppanyaki (48 yuan) and pork and asparagus teppanyaki (35 yuan).

For ala carte orders, try the yellow tail sashimi (75 yuan), snapper sashimi (65 yuan), scallops with mayonnaise (10 yuan each), grilled beef with hot sauce (45 yuan) and grilled pork (35 yuan). Hand rolls, which cost 45 yuan an order, come in generous portions.

For discounts, visit sozhe.com and download coupons that offer 12 percent off a meal. Offer lasts until the end of the year.

Kuromatsushiroshika

Where: 2 Xinyuan Xili Dongjie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:20 am – 2 pm; 5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6460 6238

Cost: 98 yuan for a lunch buffet, including local beer and soft drinks but no sake; 150 yuan for most dishes on the menu, including sake; 200 yuan for everything on the menu, including sea urchin



Seasoned kelp, 18 yuan

CFP Photo



Goosfish liver, 38 yuan

Photo by Wendy Zha

Dumpling central



Colorful dumplings, 7 to 10 yuan for 50 grams

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

Dumplings are everyone's favorite, but most restaurants offer few choices. Diners already want an escape from the usual: pork with napa cabbage or chives; sanxian, a combination of pork, shrimp and sea cucumber; lamb with scallion tomatoes; celery and pork; and green peppers and pork.

Thank heavens there's Baoyuan Jiaozi, which has long been a local hot spot for its distinctive dumplings. The treats come in six colors of dough wrappers – white, green, red, yellow, purple and gold – made of natural vegetable or fruit juice.

The purple wrappers, for instance, are a mix of red cabbage or purple corn and green-skinned carrots, grape juice, blueberry juice and tomato sauce. The red ones are made of carrots, spinach and tomato sauce; the yellow wrappers, cheese power, milk, mayonnaise and orange juice.

Like fabric colors that fade through time, the wrappers all turn white a few minutes after being served.

Baoyuan offers more than 30 choices of filling, such as lotus root, cucumber, cilantro and mashed pork. Vegetarians need not worry: they have at least a dozen options, like mushrooms, bean sprouts, yam, corn and cucumber.

All dumplings are priced by weight – 7 to 10 yuan for every 50 grams, or around six dumplings. It takes at least a dozen dumplings to satisfy an ordinary appetite.

Here's a tip on how to enjoy dumplings: after you bite into one, drink the juice so it does not drip down your chin or get on your clothes. But drink with caution, especially in winter, to avoid burning your lips and tongue. Once you've devoured everything, you can ask for "dumpling soup." According to a Chinese saying, the water in which the dumplings have been boiled can aid digestion.

Baoyuan's menu also includes specials like fried tofu with shrimp and garlic (38 yuan), fried walnut and almond with chicken (28 yuan), and pomelo salad (18 yuan), fresh and cool pomelo sprinkled with peppers.

The restaurant is busiest during lunchtime, so go there early. The dumplings are prepared according to orders, so be patient with the 15 minutes it takes to make and cook them.

Beijing Today thinks it is a good idea to order some uncooked dumplings, bring them home and store in the freezer. They taste so much better than the frozen, supermarket variety and will come in handy when winter midnight hunger pangs strike. When you take away the uncooked dumplings, ask the waitress to place more flour on the dumplings. When you get home, separate the dumplings before freezing. Otherwise, they will stick together and rot during cooking.

Baoyuan Jiaozi

Where: North side of Building 6, Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6586 4967

Cost: Around 20 yuan for a dozen dumplings



Uncooked dumplings for takeaway

Photo by Wendy Zha

Dance between nature and humans

By He Jianwei

"Creativity doesn't mean creating something from nothing; rather it implies the creation of new things from existing things," says Ma Shouze, among the country's first-generation modern dancers, who visited from the US to choreograph a new performance with BeijingDance/LDTX this month.

Walks of Life, which explores the relationship between the cognitive and the natural world, was inspired by Ma's years of studying and teaching overseas. He is currently an associate professor at Arizona State University's Department of Dance.

Life abroad led him to reflect on his motherland's culture and evoked in him a profound insight on Eastern philosophy and Taoism. Besides being an artistic display, *Walks of Life* is also an examination of traditional culture and self-perception.

Ma divided the performance into two acts. The first is set in a natural, earthy backdrop, in which dancers stay close to the ground and wear costumes with plant-like ornamentation. "This section represents the birth of life," the choreographer says.

In the second act, the scene is trans-



Photo provided by BeijingDance/LDTX

formed into a busy, modern, everyday world. The performers' movements shift from surrealism to realism. Here Ma conveys the idea of samsara, the endless cycles of birth, misery and death, by illustrating the relationship between nature and humans.

"The more I know Western modern dance, the more eager I become to look at my own culture," says Ma, who studied in London in the early 1990s and then the US later in the decade. To create a link between East and West, traditional and modern, Ma used electronic music for the first act and Buddhist music for the other.

BeijingDance/LDTX has also invited two artists from Arizona State University, Galina Mihaleva and Saskia Jordan, who are working on costume and stage design for the show.

Walks of Life

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District
When: November 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100 yuan; 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6405 4842

Upcoming

Nightlife

Amon Amarth – Live in Beijing 2009
Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: December 1, 8 pm
Admission: 166 yuan; 121 yuan for women
Tel: 6402 5080

Stage in December

Concert

Piano Recital by Cristina Ortiz (Brazil)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: December 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Piano Recital by Michael Tsalka (Israel)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: December 18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Vienna Festival Philharmonic Orchestra New Year Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District
When: December 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 5166 1145

Secret Garden Duo Concert 2009

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tian'anmen Square), Xicheng District
When: December 30, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 5128 6286

Dance

Peony Pavilion – National Ballet of China (NBC) 50th Anniversary Series

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: December 8-9, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Prism

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: December 18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Haze

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: December 19, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

Goodbye, UFO – The "First 3D Acrobatic Musical"

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District
When: December 17 – January 19, 2010, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6831 6633

Monologues – Revel's World of Shakespeare

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: December 19-27, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120 yuan
Tel: 5129 0082

(By Jackie Zhang)

Friday, November 27

Exhibition

Cultural Beijing Century Quadrangle – Zhai Ying Solo

Where: Art Bridge Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 10, daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 13701206024

Spectacle and Gaze – Exhibition of Contemporary Photography in China

Where: Museum of Central Academy of Fine Arts, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 9, daily except Monday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1575

Movie

Lisbon Story

Where: Sculpting in Time (inside Beihang University), 37 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 8231 0664

Nightlife



She Weaves a Sweater for Me – Zhong Lifeng Concert

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan;

VIP 120 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Jelly Fish Diary – Jelly Fish's First Album

Where: Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6400 7868



Cultural Beijing Century Quadrangle at Art Bridge Gallery

Sunday, November 29

Exhibition

International Architectural and Art Invitational Exhibition

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Until February 28, 2010, daily except Monday, 10 am – 10 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 8008

Timelapse – A Swiss-China Media Art Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Until December 20, daily, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 1476

Relics of the Old City – Shen Jiguang Photography Exhibition

Where: Xiaoping's Shop Gallery (inside Tsinghua University), 1 Qinghuayuan, Haidian District

When: Until December 7, daily, 9 am – 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6275 0388

Movie



En Soap

Where: No. 3 Club, 43 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian District
When: 3 pm
Admission: 20 yuan (includes a soft drink)
Tel: 8211 5288

Nightlife

Ajinai

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 9 am
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6264 3177

Fantasia Winter

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Saturday, November 28

Exhibition

Inspiration from Plateau – Chinese Fine Arts

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Until November 30, daily, 9 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 1476

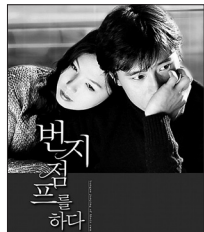


Notes on Fishing – Liu Rui-zhao Paintings and Sculpture 2006-2009

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiux-

ianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until December 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9698

Movie



Bungee Jumping of Their Own

Where: Lele Bar (50 meters east of Communication University of China's north gate), Dingfuzhuang, Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free

Tel: 6576 5987
Two Seasons
Where: 4/F Wenjin Hotel, 1 Zhongguancun Dong Lu, Haidian District
When: 4:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6252 5566 ext. 5398

Nightlife

DH & Chinese Hellcats

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Gigantic Post-rock Group MONO from Japan First Landing in China

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 200 yuan
Tel: 8402 8477

Stay safe during your hot tub soak

By Venus Lee

Though hot tubs, whirlpools and spas are great for relaxing after a hard winter day's work, they pose a serious risk for injury. Over the past two decades, recreational use of hot tubs has increased, but injury education and prevention has not.



Injuries more common than you would expect

A recent study conducted by the Center for Injury Research and US Nationwide Children's Hospital found that from 1990 to 2007, the number of unintentional hot tub-related injuries increased 160 percent to 6,600 injuries per year.

According to the study, 73 percent of the people involved in hot tub-related injuries were older than 16 and half of the injuries resulted from slips and falls.

While most injuries involved young adults, children were also susceptible to hot tub-related injuries, said study author Lara McKenzie, principal researcher at the center. Due to the differing mechanisms of injury and the potential severity of these injuries, children deserve special attention.

Among children younger than 6 years old, near-drowning accounted for more than two-thirds of injuries. Children ages 6 to 12 were more likely to be injured by jumping and diving in or around a hot tub. Some of the most severe hot tub-related injuries involved suction drains — entanglement, body entrapment and drowning — were predominately seen in children.

The study was published in the online issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.



Keeping your tub safe

Consider the following to make your hot tub as safe as possible.

1. Install a slip resistant surface

Pools are slippery places. Placing slip resistant surfacing in and around the hot tub is strongly recommended. Do not allow running around the edges of the pool. Be careful getting in and out of hot tubs, as many models have very slippery sides. Handrails can reduce the risk of injuries from slips or falls. Make sure the handrails cannot trap someone under water.

2. Limit time and temperature

Always test the temperature of the water before entering the hot tub. Staying or bathing in hot water for a long time can cause severe heat-related illnesses and even death. "So limit the duration and temperature of hot tub exposure to 10 to 15 minutes at no more than 40 C," said Chang Cuiqing, a sports medicine expert at Department of Rehabilitation of Peking University Third Hospital.

3. No alcohol and drugs

Never use a hot tub when you are alone and never use it while drinking or taking drugs as it may cause sleepiness, drowsiness or fluctuations in

blood pressure. They can also lower the body's resistance to the effects of overheating. Most adult accidents are alcohol or drug related.

4. Make sure spa equipment is secure

Regularly have a professional check your spa jets, grates, skimmer and main drain and make sure they are in good, safe working condition, and that drain covers are in place and not cracked or missing.

Spa users should be instructed not to stick any part of their body into such outlets, since entrapment and drowning can occur. Spa users with long hair should also be cautioned not to get their hair near such outlets. Know where the cut-off switch for your pump is so you can turn it off in an emergency.

5. Stay out when ill

Individuals with certain medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, or high or low blood pressure, should not use a spa without approval by their physician. If a person has any doubt whether a medical condition may limit his use of a spa, consult with a physician. Individuals with open cuts or wounds should not use a spa until

completely healed.

6. Block bacteria

Hot tubs and whirlpool baths can provide a fertile breeding ground for a number of bacteria that cause infection or disease. This includes the *Legionella* bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease, which can be fatal. Also, the *Pseudomonas* bacteria can cause a number of serious infections, such as severe skin rashes, eye and ear infections and pneumonia.

"It is important to maintain the proper level of disinfectant to ensure clean and safe water in hot tubs and pools," Chang said. "Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant. The more a hot tub is used, the faster the disinfectant is used up."

To help keep pools clean, you should also drain and scrub them with a bleach solution at least once a month, and more often for heavily used pools. Filters and pumping systems should be cleaned and serviced on a regular basis.

"Always shower or bathe before using a hot tub. Use soap to remove body oils. This helps keep the hot tub free of germs and reduces the amount of disinfectant needed," Chang said.



Pregnant women and children need extra care

1. Aromatherapy a danger when pregnant

Pregnant women may be at higher risk of overheating in a hot tub. Generally, pregnant women should stay in a hot tub for 10 minutes or less.

"Excessive heat and lengthy soaks should be avoided. Make sure to lower the temperature to below 38.9 C," Chang said. "Ask an adult to help you move in and out of the hot tub. You should get out immediately if you feel dizzy or faint or if you have a rapid pulse, irregular heartbeat, stomach pain or tingling in the hands or feet."

"If you are used to enjoying aromatherapy on your tub by adding essential oil to your bath water, there are a few adjustments that you need to make to keep your aromatherapy sessions safe during pregnancy," she said.

Most experts suggest avoiding any kind of aromatherapy during the first trimester of pregnancy. Once you have passed the 12 to 14 week point, reduce the amount of essential oil that you normally use by half. It is also important to avoid certain types of essential oils, including basil, cedar, juniper, cinnamon and lemongrass. Oils that are good to use during pregnancy include chamomile, lavender, sandalwood and rosewood. If you are in doubt about a particular oil, leave it out until after birth or consult your doctor.

2. Constant adult supervision necessary

"Drowning is the number one cause of death for children under age 4. A child can drown within seconds of entering the water and irreversible brain damage usually occurs within four to six minutes," Chang said. "All hot tubs and pools should have restricted access to prevent drowning."

Children are at higher risk of overheating than adults. Parents should not let their children stay in hot tubs for more than five minutes at a time. Toddlers and babies are most at risk of overheating and should not be allowed into the tub.

Small children are also at higher risk of getting trapped underwater by the suction from an outlet opening. To help prevent this, all pool outlets should have a screen over them. Additionally, parents should keep hot tubs covered and locked when not in use. Consider installing a fence or barrier around the area, set rules prohibiting jumping and diving and maintain the suction covers.

"Parents must supervise their children at all times. Most hot tub accidents involving children occur when the children are not supervised, or while their supervisors are distracted, even for a brief moment," she said.

CFP Photo





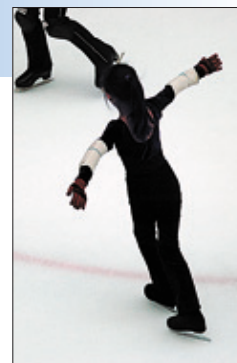
Skating malls

Top ice skating rinks inside shopping malls

By Zhang Dongya

What is winter without ice skating? If you're looking for some fun on ice, you can hit the city's frozen lakes – or just visit the skating rinks in various malls. Most of the rinks are open year-round, so you can enjoy them even in summer.

Beijing Today offers you a guide to the town's most popular skating rinks, some of which debuted just this season.



The Village's skating rink is the shopping complex's newest attraction.

Photos by Jason Wang

Outdoor rink at The Village

A skating rink opened at Sanlitun's The Village last week, offering urbanites another winter activity at one of Beijing's most popular shopping and dining spots. Champion Rink, located at The Plaza, has turned the square into a children's fantasyland.

The rink is relatively small, thus suitable for beginners. Its surface area measures 200 square meters, about the size of a convenience store.

It has 300 skates for rent, with shoe sizes ranging from 175 to 290 millimeters. It also has 60 lockers where customers can store their stuff for 1 yuan.

As an introductory offer, Champion Rink charges skaters 30 yuan for every 90 minutes. The management has not said when the promo period will end.

On Fridays and weekends, the rink features half-hour performances, including dramas. The show starts at 5 pm on Fridays and 3 pm on weekends.

Because it is outdoors, skaters need to pile on more clothes. The rink is scheduled to stay open till the end of February next year.

Champion

Where: The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 10 to Tuanjiehu station, or take bus 113, 115, 118 or 701 to Sanlitun stop

Open: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Admission (90 minutes): Weekdays 10-11:30 am 30 yuan; 11:30 am – 5 pm 40 yuan; 5-9:30 pm 50 yuan; weekends and holidays 50 yuan

Solana's All Star club

The All Star Skating Club was founded last year by Li Ning, the Olympic gymnast and namesake of the sporting wear brand. It is located in Solana, one of the city's newest shopping complexes. The rink is a huge 2,000 square

meters; two-fifths of it is ice.

The club has trainers who were once professional ice skaters for those who dream of joining the winter Olympics – or maybe just impressing a crush.

The rink is equipped with first-class lighting and acoustic system, which creates a dreamy, movie-like atmosphere.

The club also has a store that sells professional-level skates, skating costumes, ice hockey attire, knee pads and gloves.

All Star

Where: VD1-36, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Guangyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 10 to Liangmaqiao station, or take bus 419, 852 or 985 to Zaoying Beili stop

Tel: 5905 6328

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Admission (90 minutes): Weekdays except Friday 10 am – 6 pm 30 yuan; 6-10 pm 40 yuan; Friday, weekends and holidays 50 yuan

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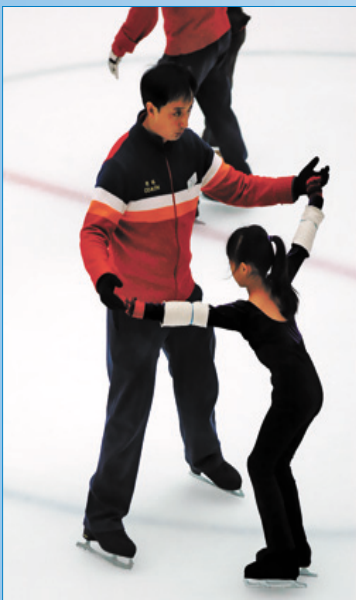
Solana's rink is one of the city's largest and least crowded.

Photo provided by Solana





Le Cool has a glass ceiling that lets in sunlight and moonlight.



Most indoor rinks provide one-on-one training to youngsters.

... continued from page 20

Newly renovated rink at New World

The ice skating rink at New World Department Store was renovated this June and in the process gained a new name, Hokay.

The basement-level rink is big, measuring 1,700 square meters, with about half of it ice. Opened in 2000, it is one of Beijing's first indoor skating rinks and has the most regulars.

Hokay provides one-on-one training to youngsters, mainly in ice hockey and figure skating. Students flood the rink on weekends, when it's common to see 4- to 12-year-olds in skating costumes. It has handrails for beginners and benches for observers.

The admission includes skate rental. Shoes range in size from 160 millimeters, for children, to the largest 295 millimeters.

The rink has more than a hundred lockers for customer use. It charges a 10-yuan deposit but is otherwise free.

Hokay

Where: B1 New World Department Store, 5 Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 2 or 5 to Chongwenmen station, or take bus 9, 43, 673 or 729 to Chongwenmen Xi stop

Open: 9:30 am - 9:30 pm
Tel: 6708 6481

Admission (90 minutes): Weekdays 9:30-11:30 am 25 yuan; 11:30 am - 5 pm 35 yuan; 5-9:30 pm 40 yuan; weekends and holidays 45 yuan

Le Cool's tranquil surroundings

Le Cool, located at China World Shopping Mall, has a relaxing atmosphere unlike most indoor rinks. It is open all year and is packed in winter.

The rink is popular among children and young adults, usually office employees who work for companies located around the mall.

During the day, sunshine streams in from the glass ceiling; at night, the moon, stars and city lights give the 800 square meters of ice a dramatic flair.

The rink labels itself environmentally-friendly as it shuns the use of fluorine, a freezing agent that is harmful to the ozone layer.

Skates, from size 175 to 285 millimeters, are available and included in the admission. Trainers roam the ice, prepared to give tips and a hand to people on shaky legs.

Beside the rink are fast-food stores like Subway, where people can take a breather.

Le Cool

Where: B2 China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 1 to Guomao station, or take bus 9, 502 or 976 to Dabeyao stop

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6505 5776

Admission (90 minutes): Weekdays except Friday 10 am - 6 pm 30 yuan; 6-10 pm 40 yuan; Friday, weekends and holidays 50 yuan

Other skating rinks in town

Xiyue Rink in Xidan

Where: B3 Xidan Cultural Center, 180 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am - 9:30 pm

Tel: 6602 0050

Admission: Weekdays

10 am - 4 pm 35 yuan

(including skate rental);

4-9:30 pm 45 yuan;

weekends and holidays

45 yuan

Champion Rink at Jinyuan

Where: B2 New Yansha Shopping Mall, 1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District

Open: 10 am - 9:30 pm

Tel: 8887 4899

Admission: Weekdays 10-

11:30 am 30 yuan; 11:30 am -

5 pm 40 yuan; 5-9:30 pm 50

yuan; weekends and holidays

50 yuan



New World Department Store's rink got a face-lift and a new name in June.



Some skating rinks in shopping malls are open year-round. Photos by Jason Wang

Tips

1. Wear extra warm clothing, since indoor rinks have a lower temperature than the rest of the mall.
2. Bring gloves or mittens, since some rinks require them.
3. Food is not allowed in the rink, but you can stop for a munch at nearby stores or restaurants.
4. Most rinks do not accept responsibility for skaters' accidents or injury, so be careful, especially when the place becomes crowded. Do not try any fancy tricks if you have not received training.

Dining



Feast & FIZZ

Beijing's newest champagne brunch is celebrating FIZZ on Sundays in December. Savor brunch favorites and an international selection of gourmet delights with a twist on holiday dishes. Enjoy free beverages to your heart's content and surrender to the fizzing of champagne Tattinger. Delight in the artistry of master chefs, the gracefulness of the tea master and the soothing Christmassy sound of the resident jazz band Casablanca.

Where: PENTA, Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

When: Sundays, in December, noon – 3 pm

Cost: 368 yuan, subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5812 8888



Kempinski Christmas goodies

This Christmas, Kempinski's famed pastry kitchen cooks up a winter wonderland for sweets lovers. Indulge yourself or share in an endless selection of European Christmas sweets and gifts for your loved ones. Traditional German Christstollen, chocolate truffle yule log, dome-shaped Panettone and grandma's home baked Christmas cookies will be available. The hotel also offers three standard size Festive Hampers, perfect gifts for your friends and business associates.

Where: Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: From November 29

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4075



Irish coffee promotion

Order a cup of Irish coffee at the lobby lounge and enjoy a slice of cake at the cake counter with Gloria's compliments.

Where: Gloria Plaza Hotel Beijing, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 31

Cost: 58 yuan per cup

Tel: 6515 8855 ext. 2157

Maxim's goose liver expo

Immerse yourself in Maxim's homemade goose liver expo from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on December 10 and 12. A lecture on the secrets of tasty goose liver starts the event at 10:30 am with a demo at 11:15 am. Enjoy a goose liver lunch with two kinds of Maxim's goose liver, goose liver beef soup, goose liver sauce and veal and Maxim's dessert. Participants will each receive 120 grams of Maxim's homemade goose liver.

Where: Maxim's Restaurant (Solana), Building C1-21, 6 Solana, Chaoyang District

Cost: 650 yuan per person

Tel: 5905 6204

Aviation



Singapore Airlines and Tourism New Zealand sign joint marketing agreement

Singapore Airlines and Tourism New Zealand have signed an agreement to develop and promote tourism to New Zealand on Singapore Airlines. The three-year agreement takes effect on January 1. Singapore Airlines and Tourism New Zealand have committed NZ \$2 million (9.9 million yuan) over three years to fund joint activities. These include marketing and tourism campaigns, a media campaign and special offers to travel agents from Singapore, China, India, the UK, Germany and France.

Hotel



Festive winter dreams

A festive event for you and that special someone or for the whole family. Live it up in China World Hotel's Horizon Club's deluxe room for two nights at a special rate while enjoying Shangri-La hospitality. Guests receive a complimentary daily buffet breakfast, return airport transfers via chauffeured hotel limousine, traditional full-body or foot massage, a bottle of the house wine, late checkout until 6 pm and exclusive access to the hotel's two-story Horizon Club Lounge.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: December 24 – February 28

Cost: 3,288 yuan (single occupancy), 3,588 yuan (double occupancy); subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 6505 8885

Shangri-La Hotel, Wenzhou grand opening package

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts is celebrating the grand opening of Shangri-La Hotel, Wenzhou with a rate of 888 yuan per night for a deluxe room. Valid until February 28, 2010, the rate includes daily breakfast and marks the completion of all facilities at the hotel: one of

three Shangri-La properties in Zhejiang Province.

Tel: 0577-8998 8866

Marco Polo Parkside's new executive chef

Marco Polo Parkside, Beijing has named its new executive chef, Ernie Zhang, who will join the hotel on December 1. Prior to Marco Polo Parkside, Zhang worked at the InterContinental Hotels Group and The Peninsula Hotels.



Special Christmas offers

Park Plaza Beijing West has a series of Christmas offers. Try Austrian gluehwein prepared by the Flame Lounge and enjoy exquisite Christmas gifts boxes and tempting desserts at the Deli.cio.us dessert store. For Christmas Eve, the hotel has prepared a wonderful buffet dinner in the Solid Dining restaurant with an open kitchen to show the finest European culinary techniques. There will be two raffles on Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm, respectively. Prizes include one night at the club suite and free buffet breakfast and dinner.

Where: Park Plaza Beijing West, 17 Xicui Lu, Haidian District

When: From December 15

Cost: 398 yuan (adults), 150 yuan (children)

Tel: 6813 0088

Tourism

Guilin International Tourism Expo 2010

Guilin International Tourism Expo will be held at the Guilin International Exhibition Center from September 3 to 5, 2010. Its press conference was held at Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center on November 16. The Guilin International Tourism Expo 2010 will be hosted by the People's Government of Guilin Municipality together with Guilin Municipal Bureau of Exhibition Services, Guilin Municipal Bureau of Tourism and Singapore Convention & Exhibition Managing Services.

Mauritius receives outstanding award

On the opening day of London's World Travel Market, Selling Long Haul named Mauritius the number one long-haul destination for weddings and honeymoons. Vice Prime Minister Xavier Duval was present to accept the award. The award was selected by travel agents across the UK. Mauritius faced stiff competition from Antigua, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and St. Lucia.



Pay whatever you want night at a loft

To celebrate the anniversary of the aloft hotel flagship in Asia Pacific, aloft Beijing, Haidian started its limited "pay whatever you want" campaign. Pay for much fun aloft brings you, and pay what you think it is worth. Only applicable for one night stays on November 27. The hotel has invited the Harlem Globetrotters from the US.

Where: aloft Beijing Haidian, Tower 2, 25 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8889 8000

Event

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

What does Obama want from China?

By Zhao Hongyi

Chinglish words or phrases in daily conversations are usually not a matter of life or death, as long as the speaker can make himself understood. But in certain situations, such as political discussions – especially on the international level – the stakes are much higher.

During US President Barack Obama's state visit last week, two Chinglish phrases made a nationwide appearance. Fortunately they did not result in conflict, though they made some people cringe.

After attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Singapore, Obama flew to Shanghai last Sunday evening where he held a town hall meeting with local college students. The event, shown live on TV, received positive feedback from viewers.

The comments included one from a netizen who pointed out that a student inadvertently used Chinglish when he asked the US President a question.

During a discussion on Sino-US bilateral ties, the student asked Obama, "What do you want from China?"

The netizen said the question sounded confrontational at least and impolite at best, and could have led to misunderstanding and annoyance. He said the proper phrasing should have been, "What do you expect to accomplish during this visit to China?"

Luckily, Obama correctly understood the question and answered without missing a beat.

Two days later in Beijing, at a press conference given by President Hu Jintao and Obama after their meeting, Hu spoke first, then invited the US President to give his remarks.

"I give the microphone to President Obama now," the interpreter from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The translation was accurate, if you're after being literal. But if you want to be idiomatic – that is, cool – the netizen suggested using, "I now give the floor to President Obama."

Until Obama's next visit, there's time to practice.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. The book originates a mass collection.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): It involves an error in the usage of the verb "to originate." To originate can indeed be a transitive verb when it means to cause to be; invent. For instance, He has originated a new style of painting. It means that he has invented a new style, a new approach. In this sample, the verb to originate that means to come into being; begin; arise is an intransitive verb. So, you will have to say: The book originates from a mass collection. It means that the book is based on a mass collection. Here is another example for you: All the songs he sings originate from the ballads of ethnic minorities.

Native speaker Steven Sandor (SS): The writer may have meant, "The book originates from a mass collection." In this case, it would mean that the book was created by condensing a great body of knowledge. While syntactically there may be other possibilities, they do not appear logical. It is hard to imagine a book creating a mass collection.

2. He is in overweight.
ZS: This expression is wrong though overweight does serve as a noun sometimes. However, in this case, it is not proper. The adjective form of the word should be used. Idiomatic English would say: He is overweight (for his age and height.) When it is used as a noun, it means "too much weight." For instance, The overweight of the snow that accumulated on the roof top caused its fall. The mother lavished an overweight of care on the boy.

SS: The extra word "in" was dropped into the sentence, confounding its syntax. Things instantly become correct by striking out that extra word. It is no different from saying, "He is tall."

3. Young Beijingers are tired of the being walking promotions.

ZS: Can you discern what is wrong with this sentence? It would be all right if you drop the definite article. You will say: Young Beijingers are tired of being walking promotions. The definite article is totally unnecessary and improper before a gerund phrase. For instance, you will say: You have to be wary of being hit by the on-rushing cars. But, you will never say: You have to be wary of the being hit by the on-rushing cars.

SS: Again, an extra word is the root of all this confusion. Someone likely forgot to cut out the "the" while editing other parts of this sentence.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Assorted guts



By Tiffany Tan

What's the problem with this sign? It may be too blunt, too visual for your taste, but it's only telling the truth. This section of the supermarket is selling guts – animal entrails or intestines. It actually forgot to include heart, liver, lungs ... Some Asian food markets even sell congealed blood, kidneys and brains.

Neizang, the first word in the sign, means "internal organs." Western supermarkets do not normally offer such Chinese favorites; otherwise, they might be more delicately labeled

"organs." Every other synonym I can think of would make Westerners wince.

For once, I say let's leave the sign as it is. Anyway, any foreigner who goes hunting in this part of the store will likely know enough Chinese to understand the Chinese words. I consider loving them as some sort of Chinese rite of passage for our Western friends.

Neizang is truly an acquired taste, so we can just agree to disagree. Translations do not always solve cultural differences in our big, diverse world.

Moon (2009)

Movie of the week

Director Duncan Jones, son of the glam rock star David Bowie, has a talent for art. This time, the Jones' vision plays out on the screen.

A lot of people have become disillusioned with the sci-fi genre since the parade of *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Terminator* and *Transformers* films, and are looking to independent theater for the next *Apollo 13*.

But *Moon* proves to be so much more. It is not just because of the cinematography and captivating shots of the luna surface. The movie touches on the philosophical questions that science and technology raise – something other science-fiction films have forgotten how to do.

Synopsis

An astronaut miner who extracts the precious moon gas that promises to reverse Earth's energy crisis nears the end of his three-year contract. For three long years, Sam Bell has dutifully harvested Helium 3 for Lunar, a company that claims it holds the key to solving mankind's energy problems. The lonely astronaut looks forward to returning to his wife and daughter down on Earth, where he will retire early and attempt to make up for lost time. His work on the Selene moon base has been enlightening – the solitude is helping him to reflect on the past and overcome some serious anger issues – but the isolation is making Sam uneasy.

With only two weeks to go before he begins his journey back to Earth, Sam starts feeling strange: he's having inexplicable visions and hearing impossible sounds. Then, when a routine extraction goes horribly awry, it becomes apparent that Lunar hasn't been entirely straightforward with Sam about its plans for replacing him.

Scene 1

(An introduction to the future.)

Lunar Industries Ltd: There was a time when "energy" was a dirty word. When turning on your lights was a hard choice. Cities in **brownout** (1), food shortages, cars burning fuel to run.

But that was the past. Where are we now? How do we make the world so much better, make the deserts bloom? Right now we are the largest producer of fusion energy in the world. The energy of the sun **trapped in** (2) rock harvested by machine from the far side of the moon. Today we deliver enough clean-burning Helium 3 to supply the energy needs of nearly 70 percent of the planet.

Who would have thought that all the energy we ever needed is right above our heads? The power of the moon, the power of our future.



Scene 2

(Sam's vehicle crashes on the moon. He awakens to find two clones of himself in the base. They are the fifth and the sixth clones, both recently activated.)

Sam 6 (S6): That's Fairfield right? There's the town hall.

Sam 5 (S5): Fairfield, that's right. Yeah ... that's Tess and Eve. You ... You know Tess?

S6: Yeah I know Tess.

S5: You know about Eve right?

S6: What?

S5: I had a ... we had a girl Eve. Ain't she beautiful? She's my little monkey. She's our little monkey. High five! She might be the milkman's ... but she's beautiful.

G: Sam, a new message has arrived from earth.

(The Sams go to the control room.)

Central: Greetings Sam. How's our man? You feeling better? Have you had enough rest? You **resting up** (3) Sam? You better be, you bastard. Well, enjoy it while it lasts. We've got some good news. The Jupiter program had to **be put on hiatus** (4).

So we've got a few pairs of hands for you. So what we've managed to do is queue you a rescue unit ahead of schedule. Rescue unit Eliza. We expect them to reach you in approximately 14 hours. So commence jumping for joy! You're about to be back at work. In the meantime, hang in there. Rest up.

S5: They're sending a rescue unit? Why? Why are they sending a rescue unit?

S6: To fix the stalled harvester. They didn't think I was up to it.

S5: Well then, I'm going back. That's it for me.

S6: Is that what you really think?

S5: Yeah. I've got a contract! I'm going home.

S6: You're a f---king clone. You don't have shit.

S5: Hey, I'm going home!

S6: Home! You're not going anywhere. You know, you've been up here too long man. You have **lost your marbles** (5). What, do you think Tess is at home waiting on the sofa in lingerie? What about the original Sam? huh?

S5: I am the original Sam!

Scene 3

(Another day in control room.)

S6: Listen, what about the other clones? We might not be the first two to have been woken up. You said that that model had already been started when you got here. Well, who started it? There might be others up here right now. Think about it. How did I get up here so quickly after your crash?

S5: I don't know ...

S6: They didn't ship me in from central. There wasn't time. I must have come from the base.

S5: I don't know **what you're smoking** (6). Why would they do that? That's ridiculous. Impossible.

S6: I bet there's some kind of secret room.

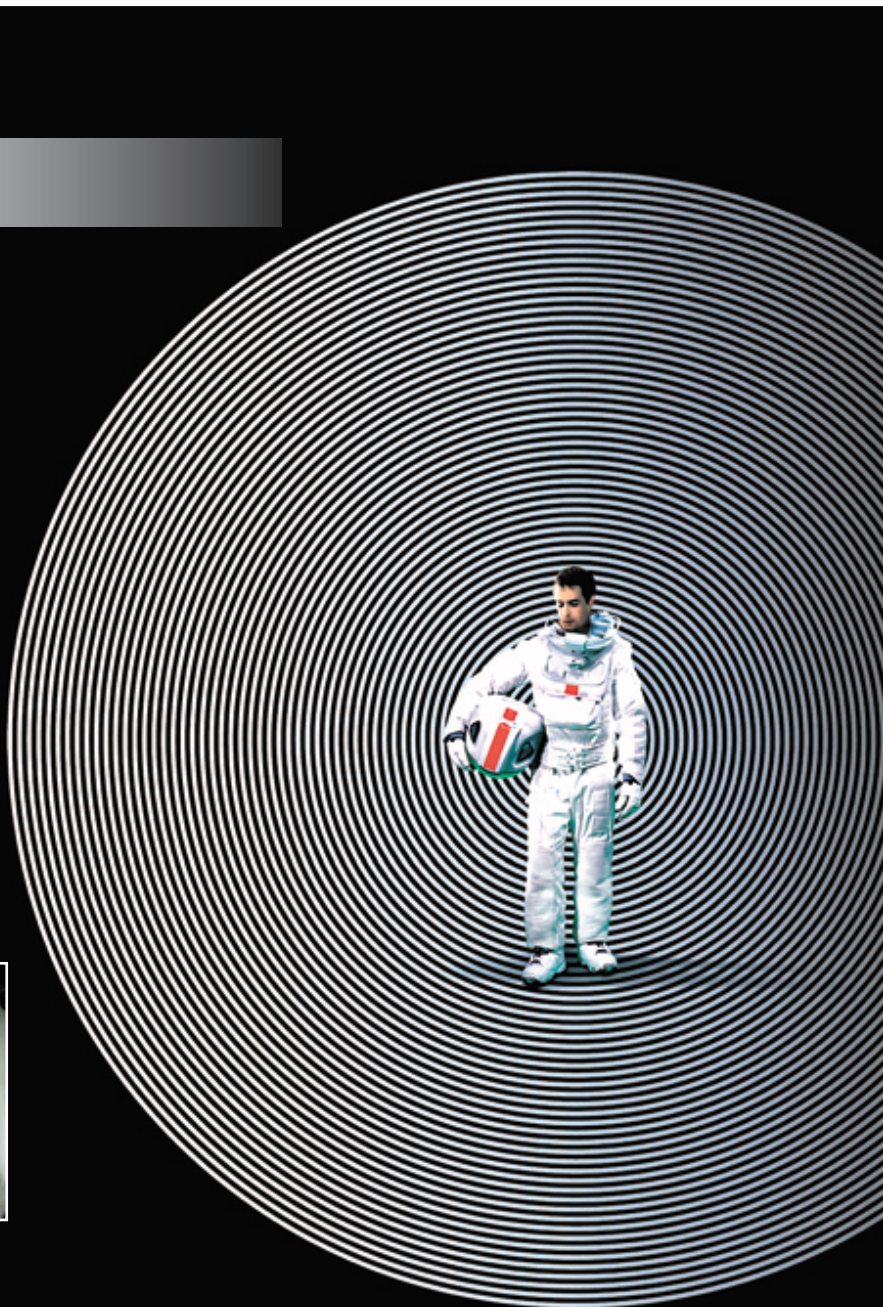
S5: "Secret room"? You know you are the one that has lost your marbles. I've been here three years, man. I know every inch of this base. And I know how much dirt is between those wall panels over there. Why would they do that? What's the motive?

S6: Look, it's a company, right? They have investors, they have shareholders. Shit like that. What's cheaper? Spending time and money training new personnel or you just have a couple of spares here to do the job?

It's the far side of the moon! Those cheap f---ks haven't even fixed the communication satellite yet!

S5: Tess would know, she would have told me ...

S6: Hey, wake up! You really think they give a shit about us? They're laughing all the way to the bank! There's some area that we don't know about. And I'm going to find it.



Vocabulary

- 1. brownout:** a reduction or cutback in electric power, especially to avoid a shortage
- 2. trap in:** to catch someone or something
- 3. rest up:** to recover or recuperate
- 4. be put on hiatus:** to be suspended
- 5. lose your marbles:** lose your sanity
- 6. What you are smoking:** "Are you crazy?"

(By Wang Yu)